



<p>Team Name: Acute Care & Personal Care Home Standards Teams</p> <p>Team Lead: Regional Director – Acute Care & Regional Director – Seniors, Palliative Care & Cancer Care</p> <p>Approved by: Executive Director – East Executive Director – Acute & Chief Nursing Officer</p>	<p>Reference Number: CLI.4110.PL.018</p> <p>Program Area: Across Care Areas</p> <p>Policy Section: General</p>
<p>Issue Date: September 16, 2019</p> <p>Review Date:</p> <p>Revision Date:</p>	<p>Subject: Oral Hygiene</p>

POLICY SUBJECT:

Oral Hygiene

PURPOSE:

To ensure a patient’s/resident’s oral hygiene needs are met according to their individual and clinical needs.

To keep the structures and tissues of the mouth clean, functional, comfortable, and free from infection by effectively removing plaque and soft debris using safe and appropriate products.

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE:

Executive Limitation (EL-02) – Treatment of Clients

POLICY:

Each Southern Health-Santé Sud care provider who provides oral hygiene to patients and residents is responsible for oral hygiene as described in the regional standard nursing reference text.

Oral hygiene is provided, encouraged or assisted minimally twice daily for all patients and residents in Acute Care (AC), Personal Care Home (PCH) or Transitional Care Centre (TCC) (once in the morning and once later in the day, especially after the last nourishment of the day).

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Sponge swabs (toothettes) are not to be used to provide oral hygiene. Sponge swabs are ineffective at removing plaque and soft debris in the oral cavity. Furthermore, sponge swabs may not retain their integrity and pose a risk of choking.

- Residents in PCH are required to provide their own oral hygiene products (toothbrush, toothpaste, denture care products, etc.). Patients in AC and TCC are strongly encouraged to provide their own oral hygiene products.
- There is a regional standard nursing reference text available in all AC units, TCC and PCHs.
- The reference text provides information about oral health assessment and interventions, and describes how to properly provide oral hygiene.
- The skill of providing oral hygiene as described in this reference text establishes the expected standard of care in Southern Health-Santé Sud.
- Referral to disciplines such as Dentistry, Speech-Language Pathology and Clinical Dietitians can be an important part of the oral assessment and treatment plan.
- Referral to Speech-Language Pathology is important when swallowing concerns are identified.

PROCEDURE:

Assessment - Personal Care Home (PCH) or Transitional Care Centre (TCC)

1. Assess each resident's or patient's oral health status on admission to PCH or TCC using the *Oral Health Assessment and Care Plan Guide* (CLI.4110.PL.018.FORM.01).

Assessment - Acute Care (AC)

2. Assess a patient's oral health status using the *Oral Health Assessment and Care Plan Guide* when a patient cannot perform oral hygiene self-care, are in a Special Care Unit (or equivalent), or when a patient has a stay of greater than two (2) weeks.

Care planning

3. Develop an oral hygiene care plan using the *Oral Health Assessment and Care Plan Guide*. Refer to the "Algorithm for Determining Level of Oral Hygiene Assistance Required" on p. 2 of the *Oral Health Assessment and Care Plan Guide* to help develop an oral hygiene care plan as needed.
4. Transfer any actions identified in Table A to the inpatient Kardex or the PCH *Integrated Care Plan* (CLI.6410.PL.002.FORM.01).
5. Refer to the *Oral Hygiene: Levels of Care Procedures* (CLI.4110.PL.018.SD.01) document to develop an oral hygiene care plan. Transfer any interventions to the inpatient Kardex (AC or TCC) or the PCH *Integrated Care Plan*.

Intervention

6. Provide oral hygiene as per the developed care plan.

Reassessment

7. Reassess the patient's or resident's oral health status at a minimum every three (3) months using the *Oral Health Assessment and Care Plan Guide*.

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES:

- Suction toothbrush kit
- Soft bristled toothbrush

- Hydrogen peroxide 1.5% solution
- Chlorhexidine 0.12% oral rinse
- Thickened non-foaming oral care product
- Oral care product (toothpaste), non-fluoridated if the patient/resident has swallowing impairment
- Denture adhesive
- Water-based, non-petroleum lip/mouth moisturizer

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- [CLI.4110.PL.018.FORM.01](#) Oral Health Assessment and Care Plan Guide
[CLI.4110.PL.018.SD.01](#) Oral Hygiene: Levels of Care Procedures

REFERENCES:

- CLI.6410.PL.002.FORM.01 Integrated Care Plan
 Canadian Virtual Hospice. *Care of the mouth*. Retrieved on-line August 23, 2018 from:
http://www.virtualhospice.ca/en_US/Main+Site+Navigation/Home/Topics/Topics/Providing+Care/Care+of+the+Mouth.aspx.
 Perry, A. G., Potter, P. A., & Ostendorf, W. R. (2016). *Clinical nursing skills & techniques* (9th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.
 The Pallium Pocketbook. (2008). *The pallium project*. Edmonton, AB: Author.