

## Chapter 13

### ORAL CARE

#### PROCEDURE FOR PROVIDING DENTURE CARE

1. Gather necessary equipment.
2. Wash your hands and put on gloves according to procedure.
3. Explain what you are going to do.
4. Provide privacy for the client.
5. Ask the client to remove his dentures.
6. If the client is unable to assist, run your gloved finger along the top of the upper dentures along the gum as you gently push the dentures forward and down. Remove lower dentures by running your glove finger along the lower gum line and pushing the dentures forward and up.
7. Place the dentures in a clean denture cup.
8. Provide water or a diluted mouthwash solution (1 ounce mouthwash to 1 ounce water) for the client to rinse his mouth. Allow client to spit liquid into an emesis basin or sink.
9. If desired the client may brush his gums with a soft toothbrush moistened with water or a diluted mouthwash to stimulate circulation to the gums.
10. If the client is unable to assist, provide oral care according to the procedure for providing oral care to a helpless client.
11. Wipe the client's mouth with the towel. If available, lubricate the lips with lip balm.
12. Fill a clean sink with 3-4 inches of cool water and place a clean washcloth on the bottom of the sink.
13. Rinse the dentures under cool running water.
14. Brush the dentures using a toothbrush and denture cleaner or toothpaste.
15. Rinse the dentures under cool running water.
16. Assist the client to replace the dentures in the mouth starting with the upper dentures first.

17. If the client does not wish to wear the dentures, store them in a clean denture cup filled with cool water or an appropriate solution as desired by the client.
18. Remove, clean and store equipment.
19. Remove and dispose of gloves.
20. Wash your hands.
21. Make the client comfortable.
22. Record observations and report anything unusual to the nurse/supervisor.