



**Connecticut Valley Hospital
Nursing Policy and Procedure**

**SECTION D: PSYCHOLOGICAL ADAPTATION
CHAPTER 13: BASIC NEEDS**

POLICY AND PROCEDURE 13.3.5 Oral Hygiene

Authorization:
Nursing Executive Committee

Date Effective: May 1, 2018
Scope: Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical
Nurses

Standard of Practice:

Maintaining good oral hygiene is essential for the physical well-being of all patients. Healthy teeth not only enable patients to feel well, they make it possible to eat, speak, and swallow properly. The Registered Nurse (RN) is responsible for delegating the responsibility of ensuring that all patients' oral hygiene is a component of a daily personal care routine offered by a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Mental Health Assistant (MHA), or Forensic Treatment Specialist (FTS).

Standard of Care:

The Registered Nurse will assess the oral care needs of all patients upon admission to CVH and annually thereafter.

Policy:

Patients will have routine, preventive oral hygiene. Nursing Staff will assess patients for their ability to independently maintain oral care. Nursing Staff will assist patients with their dental care, when necessary.

Procedure:

On admission and annually, the RN will assess all patients for their ability to independently manage basic dental hygiene needs. This includes their ability and willingness to care for their teeth, dentures and oral hygiene.

Nursing staff will report any complaints of teeth pain or discomfort to the RN. The RN will then inform the Ambulatory Care Services (ACS) Clinician by identifying the issue on the ACS Communication Board on each hospital unit. The ACS Clinician will then write an order for a patient assessment in the Dental Clinic.

Any patient in need of routine, preventive dental care will be referred to the Dental Clinic by the ACS Clinician or Attending Psychiatrist via written order.

All Nursing Plans of Care (NPOC) will address a significant dental issue with the specific needs of treatment and education for the patient.