



## ORAL HYGIENE PROTOCOL

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

We are committed to a culture of recovery throughout our systems of care, in our interactions with one another, and with those persons and families who trust us with their care.

### OVERVIEW

The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) shall meet the basic care needs of the consumers, which includes providing adequate oral hygiene according to the consumer's individual needs.

### STANDARDS OF CARE

- To enhance the consumer's physical and oral health DMHSA shall provide adequate oral hygiene and/or dental care referrals, as needed.
- All outpatient consumers and consumers admitted to an inpatient unit will be assessed for oral health needs.
- Anytime a consumer informs staff of an oral health/dental concern, the staff member shall refer the consumer to a nurse, based on the nurses' assessment, the nurse may make a dental referral.

### PROTOCOL

#### Inpatient and Outpatient Assessment:

- The nursing assessment shall include a visual assessment of the consumer's oral health including an inspection of the condition of the consumer's teeth, a brief dental history, dental habits (brushing three times a day, flossing, etc.) and any dental concerns.
- Staff shall document any use of dentures or other dental prosthetics.
- Any abnormalities shall be reported to a medical doctor/dentist, as appropriate.

#### Inpatient Dental Hygiene Needs:

- Staff shall assist and encourage the consumer with oral care, as needed.
- The consumer is responsible for bringing his/her own oral care articles (i.e., toothpaste, toothbrush, etc.).
- All oral care articles shall be labeled with the consumer's name.
- Staff shall encourage the consumer to attend any personal grooming groups that are available.

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## Dental Referrals for Inpatient and Outpatient Consumers:

- Staff shall use their professional judgment when making recommendations and referrals for dental care.
- Based on the nursing assessment, the consumer may be referred for a dental consultation with a dental service provider in the community.
  - When staff makes a referral, he/she shall converse with the consumer to assure his/her consent and cooperation to be examined.
- An assigned treatment team member shall call the community dental service provider, schedule a consultation/procedure, note it in a progress note and inform the consumer of the appointment time and location.
  - Transportation may be provided, as needed.
- Anytime a dental procedure may require the use of restraints, the consumer shall be informed ahead of time and shall consent to such use.
  - If the treatment team anticipates any issues (i.e., anxiety) with the use of restraints during a procedure, he/she shall convey the concerns to the dentist ahead of time to see if there are any alternatives.
- For consumers on the inpatient unit or residential group homes, staff is responsible for following the post-procedure care instructions and/or orders.

## Documentation:

- Each shift, staff shall document the personal hygiene requirements that the consumer completes on the Inpatient Unit Flow Sheet.
- Following the dental consultation/procedure, staff shall follow up with the consumer and document the procedure performed (teeth cleaning, extraction, x-rays, etc.), the consumer's satisfaction, and any perceived adverse reactions or required follow up care.

## **FORMS**

- Inpatient Unit Flow Sheet

## **REFERENCES**

- TJC CTS.04.13.15
- TJC PC.02.03.03

APPROVED:	
	Date: 
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