

UPDATED GUIDANCE:

MOUTH CARE FOR VENTILATED HOSPITAL PATIENTS WITH CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED COVID-19 – UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE NURSE IN CHARGE¹

Mouth care is an important part of the overall care for seriously ill patients and can prevent additional infection and reduce the likelihood of developing bacterial pneumonia. Patients with COVID-19 will largely be ventilated because of viral pneumonia. Their mouths become very dry and will benefit from regular care to reduce the risk of getting bacterial pneumonia. If oral hygiene is neglected the mouth can rapidly become dry and sore.

When providing mouth care to patients with COVID-19 wear PPE* to prevent contact & droplet transmission.

	<p>Before commencing mouth care, check with the nurse in charge that this is appropriate & for any specific advice</p>
	<p>Work under the direction of the nurse in charge who will ensure the endotracheal tube cuff is inflated to prevent aspiration. It is vital that you do not displace or disconnect the tube</p>
	<p>Moisten the patients mouth with chlorhexidine digluconate (or Corsodyl Alcohol Free mouthwash) using a general oral swab or a soft toothbrush</p>
	<p>Keep the patients lips moist with regular applications of products available</p>
	<p>Dentures are likely to have been removed and should be stored in a named pot</p>

*personal protective equipment. This includes disposable gloves, plastic apron, eye protection and a fluid resistant surgical mask.

Reference: 1. Guidance: Mouth care for hospitalised patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. Public Health England. Published 6 August 2020 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-mouth-care-for-patients-with-a-confirmed-or-suspected-case/mouth-care-for-hospitalised-patients-with-confirmed-or-suspected-covid-19>

Product Information: Corsodyl 0.2% Mouthwash (Alcohol Free). Active Ingredient: Chlorhexidine digluconate Indications: Plaque inhibition; gingivitis; maintenance of oral hygiene; post periodontal surgery or treatment; aphthous ulceration; oral candida. Legal category: GSL. Licence Holder: GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (UK) Trading Limited, Brentford, TW8 9GS, U.K. Information about this product, including adverse reactions, precautions, contra-indications and method of use can be found at <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/23034>

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