## Appendix B: Glossary of Clinical Terms

**Angular Chelitis:** Cracked, eroded and encrusted surfaces at the commissural folds that frequently appear in conjunction with mucosal inflammation caused by *Candida albicans* infection; may cause moderate pain (Darby & Walsh, 2003).

**Aspiration:** The entry of food or liquid into the airway below that muscles that produce sound, that is, the vocal cords (Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, 2006).

**Assessment:** Collecting and analyzing subjective and objective data about a client’s risk or problem, and arriving at a judgement about the client’s care needs (Darby & Walsh, 2003).

**Dental Hygienist:** Dental hygienists are registered health professionals who specialize in preventing oral health problems and diseases (Canadian Dental Hygienists’ Association website, 2002). They provide teaching to clients, family and other health professionals regarding oral hygiene care. They conduct basic exams of the teeth and gums, and may take x-rays, make dental impressions or clean, polish and apply fluoride to the teeth (CDA website, 2007).

**Dentate:** In dental terminology, this describes an individual having some or all of their natural teeth.

**Dentist:** Dentists are registered health professionals who diagnose and treat diseases, injuries and malformations of the teeth and mouth. They perform surgical procedures such as implants, tissue grafts and extractions. They also provide client education on how to care for their teeth and prevent oral disease (Retrieved May, 2007 from [http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/specialties/definitions.asp](http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/specialties/definitions.asp)).

**Denturist:** Denturists are registered health professionals who perform a variety of intra-oral procedures and related activities pertaining to the design, construction, repair or alterations of removable dentures of the fully or partially edentulous patient (Retrieved, May, 2007, from [http://www.denturists-cdo.com/about/index.cfm](http://www.denturists-cdo.com/about/index.cfm)).

**Dysphagia:** A swallowing disorder associated with difficulty moving food/liquid from the mouth to the stomach (Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, 2006).

**Edentulous:** Refers to an individual who is lacking or without teeth.

**Erythema:** A red area of variable shape and size reflecting tissue inflammation, thinness and irregularity (Darby & Walsh, 2003).

**Gingivitis:** Inflammation of the gingival tissue with no gingival recession; characterized by inflammation and redness of the gingival tissue and bleeding upon brushing (Darby & Walsh, 2003).

**Hyposalivation or Hypoptyalism:** Decreased secretion of saliva (Jablonski, Munro, Grap & Elswick, 2005).

**Interproximal Cleaning:** Cleaning between the teeth (e.g. flossing).
### Mucositis:
Direct cytotoxic action of chemotherapeutic agents on the oral mucosa resulting in atrophy or thinning of the oral mucosa, erythema, and ulceration (Darby & Walsh, 2003).

### Periodontitis:
Inflammatory disease of the periodontium that results from the progression of gingivitis; caused by specific microorganisms; characterized by progressive destruction of the supporting soft tissue and bone, leading to tooth mobility and loss (Darby & Walsh, 2003).

### Screening:
The presumptive identification of unrecognized disease or defect by the application of tests, examinations or other procedures that can be applied rapidly (Shah, 1998).

### Special Needs Dentistry: Geriatric and Special Need Dentistry
- Dentistry which deals with the special knowledge, attitudes and technical skills required for the provision of oral health care for older adults and adults who are medically compromised, intellectually disabled, physically disabled and/or have chronic mental illness.
- These adults may live in the community or may be institutionalized (e.g. hospitals, nursing homes).
- Many are frail or dependent upon caregivers to help with their activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living.

### Stomatitis:
Any inflammatory disease of the oral mucosa, which may involve the buccal and labial mucosa, palate, tongue, floor of the mouth and the gingival (Jablonski, 2005).

### Tardive Dyskinesia:
Tardive dyskinesia is a disorder that causes involuntary movements (Medline Plus, 2008).

### Xerostomia:
The medical term for a dry mouth due to a lack of salvia, also know as hyposalivation.