Appendix C: Algorithm Guide to Oral Health Assessment and Interventions

REFLECT ON YOUR ORAL HYGIENE BELIEFS AND PRACTICES – KNOW HOW THEY MIGHT BE INFLUENCING THE CARE YOU PROVIDE

ALL CLIENTS

COMPLETE ADMISSION ASSESSMENT
Includes an Oral Health History of oral hygiene beliefs, practices and current state of oral health to identify potential RISK factors

COMPLETE PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT
Use a standardized valid and reliable oral health assessment tool

DOES CLIENT REQUIRE ORAL CARE TO BE PROVIDED, SUPERVISED, REMINDED OR CUED?
The type of oral care should be tailored to the clients' specific needs and risk factors

YES

DEVELOP INDIVIDUALIZED PLANS OF CARE
Some important considerations:
• Does client have a diminished health status?
• Is client in a decreased state of consciousness?
• Does client have their natural teeth?
• Is client at high risk of aspiration?
• Does client have behavioral issues that pose as obstacles in providing oral care?

Care plans should be developed in cooperation with all members of the health care team

NO

PROVIDE, SUPERVISE, REMIND OR CUE THE ORAL CARE FOR CLIENT
Oral care for teeth, dentures, tongue and soft tissues should be performed at least twice daily using the appropriate products and techniques

Provide education on routine oral care
Remember to educate both the client and/or family members

REFER TO APPROPRIATE ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

ROUTINELY REASSESS THE CLIENT AND AS THEIR CONDITION CHANGES

DOCUMENT CARE PROVIDED

STAFF EDUCATION REQUIRED

GATHERING INFORMATION

PLAN OF CARE DEVELOPMENT

INTERVENTIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 2
Recommendation 3
Recommendation 7
Recommendation 4 & 6
Recommendation 5 & 8 (Appendices)
Recommendation 11 (See Appendix M)