

## FAQ

### Module 5 IPC While Providing Oral Care and Feeding Residents

**Facilitator notes:** Each Project Firstline CNA module is designed to provide 30 minutes of training content with optional post-training discussion using the *FAQ* files. Use any or all FAQ below to initiate further discussion among CNA after trainings, during huddles or team meetings, etc.

#### Oral Care

**1. What do I do if I see some blood while providing oral care?**

You could be brushing too vigorously or not brushing as often as you need to be brushing. Blood could also be the beginnings of gingivitis. Notify the nurse if you see more than just “a little” blood.

**2. How often should chlorhexidine be used for oral care?**

Some facilities use it once a shift, or more often, depending on the dilution of the product being used. Since different manufacturers have different strengths and directions, it is recommended to follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

**3. Would using a toothette alone be sufficient to provide oral care?**

A toothette is gentler than a toothbrush and may be used in certain situations. If the resident has teeth, a soft toothbrush is preferred. If your resident has gums that bleed or any sores in their mouth, a toothette might be a better option. Keep in mind that brushing with a regular toothbrush can irritate gums, but toothettes can be used as often as needed.

#### Feeding

**4. Sometimes I forget to raise the head of the bed while am feeding a resident. Do I need to report this to a nurse?**

Reposition the bed once you remember. Report it to the nurse if any issues arise.

**5. Is it ok to feed more than one resident at a time?**

It is best practice to feed one resident at a time. It is hard to monitor aspiration in more than one resident at a time.

**6. Are there special considerations for residents on total parenteral nutrition (TPN)?**

Residents on TPN need to sit up at a 45-degree angle. Take them off TPN if they are being moved, bathed, etc.

#### References

- [Denture care: How do I clean dentures? | Mayo Clinic](http://www.mayoclinic.org/denture-care/expert-answers/faq-20058375)  
(www.mayoclinic.org/denture-care/expert-answers/faq-20058375)

- [National Nursing Home Survey | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nnhs/nnhs_products.htm)  
(www.cdc.gov/nchs/nnhs/nnhs\_products.htm)
- [Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.train.org/cdctrain/training_plan/3814)  
(www.train.org/cdctrain/training\_plan/3814)
- [Periodontal Disease | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/conditions/periodontal-disease.html)  
(www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/conditions/periodontal-disease.html)
- [Worker protections against occupational exposure to infectious diseases | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](http://www.osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens/worker-protections)  
(www.osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens/worker-protections)