

Figure 2. Oral healthcare assessment algorithm



Oral health care assessment and algorithm

Mouth assessment: complete assessment on admission, then weekly if **low risk**, 48 hours if **medium risk**, or daily if **high risk** or if patient's condition deteriorates. For patients who score a combination of risks please follow highest algorithm

Surname	Unit No
Forename	NHS No
Address	DOB
Postcode	(or affix patient label)

Look into the patient's mouth using a light source to carry out oral health assessment. Please score L, M, H in the white boxes. Follow the algorithm for the highest score achieved				Date	Date	Date	Date	Date
	Low risk (L)	Medium risk (M)	High risk (H)					
Patient condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Fully independent</li> <li>» Alert</li> <li>» No cognitive impairment</li> <li>» No communication issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Frail</li> <li>» Low cognitive impairment</li> <li>» Refusing diet and fluids</li> <li>» Poor dexterity or upper limb weakness</li> <li>» Dysphagia - diet only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Nil by mouth</li> <li>» High cognitive impairment</li> <li>» Completely unable to communicate</li> <li>» Unable to manage own saliva or secretions</li> <li>» Ventilated or intubated</li> <li>» Tracheostomy</li> <li>» Unconscious</li> <li>» Dysphagia - diet and fluids</li> </ul>					
Oral cavity (lips, tongue, cheeks, palate, under tongue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Pink and moist mouth</li> <li>» Clean</li> <li>» Saliva present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Dry and cracked</li> <li>» Sticky secretions</li> <li>» Food debris present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Swollen</li> <li>» Ulcerated</li> <li>» White coating</li> </ul>					
Teeth or dentures - please circle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Clean</li> <li>» Not broken</li> <li>» Well fitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Unclean</li> <li>» Broken</li> <li>» Ill fitted (loose)</li> <li>» Patient unhappy to remove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Painful</li> <li>» Unable to wear dentures</li> </ul>					
Gums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Clean</li> <li>» Not bleeding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Unclean</li> <li>» Bleeding</li> <li>» Inflamed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Facial swelling</li> <li>» Severe pain</li> </ul>					
Overall rating								
Signature/stamp								

(Source: The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust)

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