Supplemental Digital Content

*Oral Care Protocol for Mechanically Ventilated Patients*

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| **Protocol** | **Frequency** | **Equipment** | **Procedure** |
| 0.12 % chlorhexidine (CHX) gluconate solution oral care | 3 times daily | * Mouth cleaning foam swabs * Gloves * 10 ml syringe * Plastic medicine cup * Bottle of 0.12% CHX gluconate (30 ml bottles) * Suction equipment (a sterile single-use suction catheter, sterile gloves, personal protective equipment) * Vaseline | * Wash hands and apply gloves. * Ensure the patient is in an upright position during mouth care * Assess oral cavity using Barnason’s oral assessment guide * Suction the mouth before oral care if necessary. * Put 0.12% CHX gluconate solution into a medication cup and use a total of 15 milliliters (mL) of 0.12% CHX gluconate during each oral care periods * Soak a mouth cleaning foam swab with 0.12% CHX  gluconate solution * Scrub all teeth and the oral soft tissues (including gingival, vestibule, buccal mucosa, the surface of the tongue, and the floor of the mouth) using small circular motions for at least one minute * Suction any remaining 0.12% CHX gluconate from mouth, but do not rinse. * Suction subglottic secretions. * Apply vaseline to lip * Use a new mouth cleaning foam swab for each patient and oral care * Maintain head of bed elevated at least 30˚ |
| Sodium bicarbonate solution oral care | 3 times daily | * The same equipment useexcept the bottle of0.12% CHX gluconate * Bottle of sodium bicarbonate (30 ml bottles) | * Use the same applications except for the application of 0.12% CHX gluconate * Use sodium bicarbonate solution instead of 0.12% CHX gluconate solution |