

Memo of the month



May 11th - June 11th is Smile Month

The Oral Health Foundation raises awareness of important oral health issues. Join the nation's biggest oral health campaign and help bring a smile to millions of people.

Resources, activities and competitions available here:

<https://www.dentalhealth.org/Listing/Site/national-smile-month/Category/whats-on?Take=3>



UKHSA oral health toolkit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-oral-health-in-care-homes-toolkit/oral-health-toolkit-for-adults-in-care-homes>



CQC requirement: Care homes must conduct oral health assessments upon admission, outline daily mouth care plans, ensure staff are trained, and facilitate access to dental services to prevent pain, malnutrition, and systemic infections.

Example oral health assessment tool



Regular, effective mouthcare can help to prevent:

- Infections such as pneumonia
- Toothache and discomfort
- Bleeding or swollen gums
- Difficulty eating and drinking
- The need for more complex dental treatment.



- Brush teeth twice a day for 2 mins using a fluoride toothpaste. Spit out any residue, rather than rinsing.
- Toothbrushes should be changed at least every 3 months, unless damaged or unclean.



DENTURES

- ✓ Clean twice a day (denture cleaning paste or mild soap and denture brush)
- ✓ May be sterilised daily in a denture sterilising solution but always follow the manufacturers guidance
- ✓ Rinse and store overnight in a clean, named denture pot with a small amount of fresh tap water



Oral health is linked to general health. Keeping a resident's mouth healthy can support their overall wellbeing and reduce the risk of complications linked to other conditions such as dementia, diabetes and pneumonia.



The IPC team provide free, in-house oral health training to care settings. The training lasts for 1.5 hours and requires a minimum of 10 attendees. If you would like to book a session, please email infection.controladmin@kirklees.gov.uk