

5.01AA Mouthcare Without A Battle - Terminology

Mouth Care Terminology

Alzheimer's Disease – the most common type of dementia

Anti-microbial rinse – alcohol-free mouth care product that kills bacteria and improves gum inflammation; requires a prescription; may only be used for 6 weeks; example is chlorhexidine solution

Aspiration – inhaling liquid

Aspiration of plaque – one of the most common causes of pneumonia in nursing homes

Biotene rinse – alcohol-free mouth care product that is especially helpful for people with dry mouth

Calculus – hardened plaque of at least 10 days which can only be removed by a dentist

Dementia – brain disease which causes the resident to gradually lose the ability to remember, do simple tasks (even tooth brushing), understand, and communicate, lasting as long as eight years or more and progresses through three stages – early, middle, and late

End tuft brush – a smaller toothbrush that allows the nurse aide to get to hard to reach areas of a resident's mouth

Fluoride – a mouth care product that may be purchased in a store or by prescription that comes in paste or rinse form and is applied to the surfaces of the teeth and along the gum line to help protect teeth from tooth decay and cavities

Gingivitis – the tender red or reddish-blue tinting of the gum due to inflammation caused by bacteria in the plaque that attacks the gum tissue and may result in loss of teeth

Interdental brush (also called a go-between) – devices used to floss or clean the tiny spaces in-between the teeth

Jiggle and sweep – the motion of the toothbrush during mouth care

Listerine – an alcohol-free product that kills bacteria during mouth care and safe for daily use; does not foam like toothpaste

Partial dentures – an appliance used by residents with some teeth and are fastened to teeth by metal clasps

Plaque – sticky film of food, bacteria, and saliva usually found along the gum line which can be removed by brushing and hardens within 48 hours

Toothpaste – a mouth care product which causes foam when used and requires a swish and spit technique by the resident; some have fluoride which can reduce tooth decay and cavities

5.01AA Mouthcare Without A Battle - Terminology

Water – a mouth care product which may be used and has been found to work just as well as applying toothpaste because it is the motion of the toothbrush that removes plaque and not the product