

Healthcare Protocol *Adult Dental Needs*

| Dental Needs | Action | Comment |
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| Complains of toothache <i>with</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Pus or drainage from gums | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make appointment with a medical or dental provider if client has an established provider • If no established provider, assist client with arranging dental care (see suggestions below). • May use ibuprofen for pain if client can otherwise take ibuprofen. | If client cannot be seen in 24 hours, or is in extreme distress, take to the urgent care or immediate care clinic. Assist client to obtain soft foods. |
| Complains of toothache <i>without</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Pus or drainage from gums | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make appointment with a dentist if client has an established provider • If no established provider, assist client with arranging dental care (see suggestions below). • May use ibuprofen for pain if client can otherwise take ibuprofen. | If client cannot be seen in 30 days, or is in extreme distress, take to the urgent care or immediate care clinic. Assist client to obtain soft foods. |
| Complains of cracked and painful tooth (teeth) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make appointment with a dentist if client has an established provider • If no established provider, assist client with arranging dental care (see suggestions below). • May use ibuprofen for pain if client can otherwise take ibuprofen. | If client cannot be seen in 30 days, or is in extreme distress, take to the urgent care or immediate care clinic. Assist client to obtain soft foods. |
| Complains of hard spots on or inside tongue or abnormally colored spots on tongue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make appointment with a medical or dental provider if client has an established provider • If no established provider, assist client with arranging dental care (see suggestions below). | Client needs to be evaluated for oral cancer. If client cannot be seen in 30 days, or is in extreme distress, take to the urgent care or immediate care clinic. |

Free Dental Clinic - __

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Veteran's Administration Clinics- 1-866-520-7359 certain veterans will meet the criteria for dental benefits that are provided.

Volunteer Dental Providers __

References

Bonin, E., Brehove, T., Kline, S., Misgen, M., Post, P., Strehlow, A., & Yungman, J. (2004). *Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network*, National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Retrieved September 29, 2007, from http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?doc_id=5272&nbr=003599&string=HIV+AND+homeless
National Healthcare for the Homeless Council. (1995). Triage Guidelines. Retrieved on March 29, 2009, from <http://www.nhchc.org/triage.html>

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