

DENTAL PAIN
Level II

Skill Level RN

Definition: Severe discomfort associated with the teeth. A severe toothache usually involves one tooth. It is very unusual to have several teeth causing extreme pain at once.

<p>Subjective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I have a toothache." • "I broke my tooth." • "My gums hurt." • "I cannot sleep." • "My tooth throbs." 	<p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration in comfort. • Potential alteration in nutrition.
<p>Objective:</p> <p>Any of the following may be present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If visible swelling or suspected cellulitis, use oral infection protocol. • Visible caries. • Lost fillings or caps. • Broken teeth. • Inflamed gums. • There may be no obvious clinical findings. 	<p>Plan:</p> <p>Provide Level I treatment - plus: At nursing discretion may use any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform dental department of the condition, and suggest an appointment with the dentist. • If visible swelling or suspected cellulitis, refer to oral infection protocol. • Check for allergies to medications. • Instruct patient to use meds available on the housing unit to treat pain (handout). • If available meds not effective, may use Ketoprophen 75 mg TID for 5 days instead. (Always second line) • Instruct patient to keep any stimuli away from painful area.

APPROVED:

Health Service Manager

[Signature]

Date

12/15/08

Dental Director

[Signature]

Date

11/17/08

Medical Director

Date

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