

## Summary of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION	*LEVEL OF EVIDENCE
<b>Practice Recommendations</b>	
1. Nurses should be aware of their personal oral hygiene beliefs and practices, as these may influence the care they provide to their clients.	III
2. As part of their client admission assessment, nurses obtain an oral health history that includes oral hygiene beliefs, practices and current state of oral health.	IV
3. Nurses use a standardized, valid and reliable oral assessment tool to perform their initial and ongoing oral assessment.	III
4. Oral health status information is regularly reviewed with all members of the health care team to monitor client progress and facilitate the development of an individualized plan of care.	IV
5. Nurses provide, supervise, remind or cue oral care for clients at least twice daily, on a routine basis. This includes clients who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ have diminished health status;</li> <li>■ have a decreased level of consciousness; and</li> <li>■ who have teeth (dentate) or do not have teeth (edentate).</li> </ul>	IV
6. Nurses provide or supervise the provision of oral care for clients at risk for aspiration.	III
7. Nurses provide ongoing education to the client and/or family members regarding oral care.	III
8. Nurses are knowledgeable of oral hygiene products and their applications as they pertain to their specific client populations.	IV
9. Nurses are aware of treatments and medications that impact on the oral health of clients.	IV
10. Nurses use appropriate techniques when providing oral care to clients.	IV
11. Nurses advocate for referral for those clients who require consultation with an oral health professional (e.g. dental hygienist, denturist, dentist).	IV
12. Nurses ensure that all oral health-related history, assessment and care be documented.	IV
<b>Educational Recommendations</b>	
13. Nurses require appropriate oral health knowledge and skills acquired through entry-level nursing education programs, workplace orientation programs and ongoing professional development opportunities.	IV
14. Nurses who provide oral hygiene care to their clients, either directly or indirectly, must participate in, and complete, appropriate oral hygiene education and training.	IV

RECOMMENDATION	*LEVEL OF EVIDENCE
<b>Organization and Policy Recommendations</b>	
15. Health care organizations develop oral health care policies and programs that recognize the components of oral health assessment, oral hygiene care and treatment are integral to quality client care.	IV
16. Health care organizations develop partnerships and increase capacity among providers to deliver collaborative practice models that improve the oral health care they provide to their clients.	IV
17. Health care organizations implement continuing education opportunities for nurses and support them to complete oral hygiene education and training that is applicable to their health care setting.	IV
18. Health care organizations develop oral hygiene care standards that are based on the best available evidence and ensure they are implemented and monitored as part of the organization's commitment to providing quality oral health care and services.	III
19. Organizations should encourage and offer support, including time and resources, for nurses to participate in oral hygiene research to assist in better understanding the issues related to oral hygiene care provision in various health care settings.	IV
20. Oral hygiene care is monitored and evaluated as part of the organization's quality management program, utilizing a variety of quantitative and qualitative approaches.	IV
<p>21. Organizations develop a plan for implementation of best practice guideline recommendations that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ An assessment of organizational readiness and barriers/facilitators.</li> <li>■ Involvement of all members (whether in a direct or indirect supportive function) who will contribute to the implementation process.</li> <li>■ Ongoing opportunities for discussion and education to reinforce the importance of best practices.</li> <li>■ Dedication of a qualified individual to provide the support needed for the education and implementation process.</li> <li>■ Ongoing opportunities for discussion and education to reinforce the importance of best practices.</li> <li>■ Opportunities for reflection on personal and organizational experience in implementing guidelines.</li> <li>■ Strategies for sustainability.</li> </ul>	IV

\* Please refer to page 12 for details regarding the interpretation of evidence.