

## **Competencies for Nursing Assistants in Provision of Oral Hygiene Care in Nursing Homes**

1. Understand consequences of poor oral care to older adults in long-term care settings to include increased risk of systemic conditions as well as oral problems.
2. Perform daily hygiene care to prevent oral disease including proper tooth brushing, interdental cleaning, antimicrobial rinse/swab, mouth swabbing, tongue cleaning, denture/partial cleaning and proper storage of oral hygiene supplies.
3. Practice proper infection control including hand washing and barriers such as gloves, mask and safety glasses.
3. Understand safety precautions in providing oral care including knowledge of when mouthwash, water and toothpaste should not be used.
4. Document oral care in daily log or on care plan.
5. Knowledge of when to make appropriate referral to nurse, physician or dentist.
6. Understand best practices in handling resistance to care.
7. Perform correct and optimal positioning for oral care.