

# LIBERTYHEALTH

Jersey City Medical Center  
Department of Patient Care Services

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**POLICY: Oral Care for  
Ventilator Patient**

**Developed by:** Patient Care Services

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Rita Smith, R.N., Sr. Vice President  
Patient Care Services

**Effective Date:** August, 2006

**Revised Date:** April, 2011

**Distribution:** Critical Care and Pulmonary Units

**Policy:** A comprehensive oral care program for patients in the critical care and acute care settings who are high risk for ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP).

## **Procedure:**

The following are guidelines for patients that require mechanical ventilation:

1. Use oral kit with 1.5 hydrogen peroxide and swab teeth, gums and tongue every two to four hours
2. Use oral Chlorhexidine gluconate (0.12%) rinse every 12 hours
3. Provide oral moisturizing to oral mucosa and lips every 2 to 4 hours
4. Document the oral care provided on critical care flow sheet and nursing documentation as appropriate

## **References:**

Getting Started Kit: Prevent Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia How-to Guide. Updated May 2010 [www.ihl.org/IHI/Programs/Campaign](http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Programs/Campaign)

Practice Alert, Oral Care in the Critically Ill patient, retrieved April 2010. [www.aacn.org](http://www.aacn.org),

Professional Practice	Y 05-04-11	
Quality and Safety Council	Y 04-27-11	
Critical Care Committee	Y 02-09-10	
Emergency Dept	Y_____	N/A ✓
Peri-Op	Y_____	N/A ✓
Maternal Child Health	Y_____	N/A ✓
Behavioral Health	Y_____	N/A ✓
Cardiac Cath Lab	Y_____	N/A ✓
Interventional Radiology	Y_____	N/A ✓
Med Exec	Y_____	N/A ✓
Pharmacy/ P&T	Y_____	N/A ✓