

Healthcare Protocol *Adult Dental Needs*

Dental Needs	Action	Comment
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 72 hours, or is in extreme distress, take to the Emergency Department.
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 Emergency Department.
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 Emergency Department.
Areas of hard masses or long-standing discoloration on tongue or lips	<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 Emergency Department.

Opportunity Health – see notes regarding eligibility for this program under medical protocols. Opportunity Health does not provide dental care, however, if the client is an established Opportunity Health client, the clinic providers may prescribe antibiotics to treat infection of the teeth &/or gums. The client will still need to see a dentist for treatment.

Crestview Health Center –located @ 4100 S Ferdon Blvd # C5, Crestview. Call 682-1164 for an appointment with this income based health clinic. The initial visit, if the client has no income, costs \$5.00. This cost may include the cost of primary lab work (not special lab tests or x-rays). Clinic is not a dental provider, however, they may prescribe antibiotics to treat infection of teeth &/or gums. The client will still need to see a dentist for treatment.

Veteran’s Administration Clinics- 1-866-520-7359 certain veterans will meet the criteria for dental benefits that are provided through this clinic at the Eglin Dental Clinic

Volunteer Dental Providers

Baptist Dental Van: 850.664.1222

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>