ORAL INFECTIONS
Level II (No level I)

Skill Level: RN

Definition: An infectious process involving the deep tissues of the oral mucosa and/or the supporting structures of the teeth, (e.g., gingiva, bone). Infections may include general cellulitis or may follow a dental procedure or injury. Facial or submandibular swelling from dental infection is potentially serious and should be monitored very closely.

Subjective:
- "My gums are swollen."
- "I have an abscess."
- "My neck is swollen"
- "My cheek is swollen"
- "I am swollen under my eye"

Assessment:
- Alterations in the oral mucosa.
- Alteration in comfort.
- Potential alteration in nutrition.

Objective:
- Intraoral swelling, localized, greater than 2 cm, usually firm, tender to palpation.
- Extra-oral swelling may be present, also tender to palpation.
- Bleeding may be present.
- Localized or generalized pain may be present.
- Fever may be present, but not over 101 degrees.
- Vitals stable for patient.
- Swelling and redness do not extend into area of the eye(s) or into the neck.

Plan:
If visible facial swelling is present:
- Check for medication allergies
- Begin STAT Antibiotic regimen – Amoxicillin 500 mg 3 times a day for 10 days.
Call provider before issuing any antibiotic medications to pregnant patients, complete pregnancy test as needed.

--If allergy to Amoxicillin, consult dentist if on site or medical provider on call after hours for possible Clindamycin order.
If on warfarin call provider for orders of INR in 5 to 7 days for either antibiotic.

Refer to dentist for follow-up.
- Consult dentist if on site or medical provider if fever is over 101 degrees or with any questions including pain management questions.
- Call medical provider and consider emergency transport if redness and swelling involves area around the eye(s), extends into the neck area, or any difficulty breathing.
- Check patient daily for three days. If at SFFC or MCCF, refer to ER. Swelling should be subsiding within 48 hours.
- If not improving or if swelling is getting worse, contact dentist or medical provider on call.
Plan (cont):

At nursing discretion may use any of the following:

- After checking for allergies to medications may suggest:
  -- Ibuprofen 200mg 1-2 4 times a day prn from unit.
  -- Tylenol or ASA 2 4 times a day prn from unit if intolerant to Ibuprofen.

- If available meds not effective, may use Naprosyn 500 mg 2 times a day prn for pain for 5 days instead. (Always second line.)

Naprosyn, aspirin, and ibuprofen are not recommended for pain management for pregnant patients, please instruct all pregnant patient to use acetaminophen (available in housing units) for minor pain management.

- May order soft diet.

- Salt water rinses 4 times a day prn.

Nursing Education:

1. Naprosyn is not recommended for minor pain management for pregnant patients, please instruct all pregnant patient to use Acetaminophen (available in housing units) for minor pain management.

2. Facial cellulitis and especially cellulitis around the eyes (peri-orbital cellulitis) or in the neck (Ludwig’s Angina) is potentially a very serious medical condition. When in doubt, contact a medical provider if a dental infection seems to be spreading onto the face, especially if it is near the eyes, into the neck, or if there is a fever over 101 degrees.

APPROVED:

Medical Services Manager

Date

1/31/2018

Dental Director

Date

1/31/2018

Clinical Medical Director

Date

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