

Oral health assessment tool

Resident:

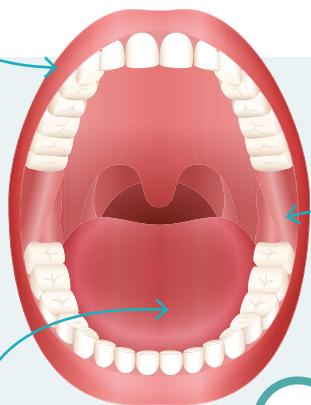
Completed by:

Date:

Scores – You can circle individual words as well as giving a score in each category
 (* if 1 or 2 scored for any category please organise for a dentist to examine the resident)

0 = healthy 1 = changes* 2 = unhealthy*

Lips:	Dental pain:	Natural teeth Yes/No:
Smooth, pink, moist 0	No behavioural, verbal, or physical signs of dental pain 0	No decayed or broken teeth or roots 0
Dry, chapped, or red at corners 1	There are verbal and/or behavioural signs of pain such as pulling at face, chewing lips, not eating, aggression 1	1–3 decayed or broken teeth or roots or very worn down teeth 1
Swelling or lump, white, red or ulcerated patch; bleeding or ulcerated at corners 2	There are physical pain signs (swelling of cheek or gum, broken teeth, ulcers), as well as verbal and/or behavioural signs (pulling at face, not eating, aggression) 2	4+ decayed or broken teeth or roots, or very worn down teeth, or less than 4 teeth 2
Oral cleanliness:		Dentures Yes/No:
Clean and no food particles or tartar in mouth or dentures 0		No broken areas or teeth, dentures regularly worn, and named 0
Food particles, tartar or plaque in 1–2 areas of the mouth or on small area of dentures or halitosis (bad breath) 1		1 broken area or tooth or dentures only worn for 1–2 hours daily, or dentures not named, or loose 1
Food particles, tartar or plaque in most areas of the mouth or on most of dentures or severe halitosis (bad breath) 2		More than 1 broken area or tooth, denture missing or not worn, loose and needs denture adhesive, or not named 2
	Tongue:	Gums and tissues:
	Normal, moist roughness, pink 0	Pink, moist, smooth, no bleeding 0
	Patchy, fissured, red, coated 1	Dry, shiny, rough, red, swollen, 1 ulcer or sore spot under dentures 1
	Patch that is red and/or white, ulcerated, swollen 2	Swollen, bleeding, ulcers, white/red patches, generalised redness under dentures 2



- Organise for resident to have a dental examination by a dentist
- Resident and/or family or guardian refuses dental treatment
- Complete oral hygiene care plan and start oral hygiene care interventions for resident
- Review this resident's oral health again on date:

TOTAL:

SCORE: 16

Appendix J: Sample Oral Health Assessment Tools

The following are two examples of validated oral health assessment tools that can be used in practice. The first is the Oral Health Assessment Tool (OHAT), and the second is the Holistic and Reliable Oral Assessment Tool (THROAT).

Sample 1: Oral Health Assessment Tool (OHAT)

Resident: _____		Date: ___/___/___		
Completed by: _____				
Scores – You can circle individual words as well as giving a score in each category (* if 1 or 2 scored for any category please organize for a dentist to examine the resident)				
Category	0 = healthy	1 = changes*	2 = unhealthy*	Category scores
Lips	smooth, pink, moist	dry, chapped, or red at corners	swelling or lump, white/red/ulcerated patch; bleeding/ulcerated at corners	
Tongue	normal, moist, roughness, pink	patchy, fissured, red, coated	patch that is red and/or white, ulcerated, swollen	
Gums and tissues	pink, moist, smooth, no bleeding	dry, shiny, rough, red, swollen, one ulcer/sore spot under dentures	swollen, bleeding, ulcers, white/red patches, generalized redness under dentures	
Saliva	moist tissues, watery and free flowing saliva	dry, sticky tissues, little saliva present; resident thinks they have a dry mouth	tissues parched and red, very little/no saliva present, saliva is thick, resident thinks they have a dry mouth	
Natural teeth Yes/No	no decayed or broken teeth/roots	1-3 decayed or broken teeth/roots or very worn down teeth	4 + decayed or broken teeth/roots, or very worn down teeth, or less than 4 teeth	
Dentures Yes/No	no broken areas or teeth, dentures regularly worn, and named	1 broken area/tooth or dentures only worn for 1-2 hrs daily, or dentures not named, or loose	more than 1 broken area/tooth, denture missing or not worn, loose and needs denture adhesive, or not named	
Oral cleanliness	clean and no food particles or tartar in mouth or dentures	food particles/tartar/plaque in 1-2 areas of the mouth or on small area of dentures or halitosis (bad breath)	food particles/tartar/plaque in most areas of the mouth or on most of dentures or severe halitosis (bad breath)	
Dental pain	no behavioural, verbal, or physical signs of dental pain	verbal and/or behavioural signs of pain such as pulling at face, chewing lips, not eating, aggression	physical pain signs (swelling of cheek or gum, broken teeth, ulcers), as well as verbal and/or behavioural signs (pulling at face, not eating, aggression)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize for resident to have a dental examination by a dentist <input type="checkbox"/> Resident and/or family/guardian refuses dental treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Oral Hygiene Care Plan and start oral hygiene care interventions for resident <input type="checkbox"/> Review this resident’s oral health again on Date: ___/___/___				TOTAL SCORE: <u>16</u>

Source: Chalmers, J., King, P., Spencer, A., Wright, F., & Carter, K. (2005). The oral health assessment tool – validity and reliability. Australian Dental Journal, 50(3). 191-199. Reprinted with the permission.

Sample 2: The Holistic and Reliable Oral Assessment Tool (THROAT)

Category	Normal: score 0	Abnormal			Total score	Comments
		Mild: score 1	Moderate: score 2	Severe: score 3		
Lips	Smooth/pink	Dry/not cracked	Dry/cracked	Ulcerated/sores/bleeding		
Teeth	Clean	Film localised plaque over teeth	Film of plaque over teeth most areas	Heavy visible deposits of plaque on and between teeth		
Dentures	Clean	Film localised plaque over teeth	Film of plaque over teeth most areas	Heavy visible deposits of plaque on and between teeth		
Gums/gingival	Coral pink/moist	Mild inflammation/slight redness/slight swelling	Moderate inflammation/redness/swelling/glazing	Severe inflammation/ marked redness/ swelling/ ulceration/ bleeding		
Mucous membranes	Coral pink/moist	Mild inflammation/slight redness/slight swelling	Moderate inflammation/redness/swelling/glazing	Severe inflammation/ marked redness/ swelling/ ulceration/ bleeding		
Palate	Coral pink/moist	Mild inflammation/slight redness/slight swelling	Moderate inflammation/redness/swelling/glazing	Severe inflammation/ marked redness/ swelling/ ulceration/ bleeding		
Tongue	Pink/moist/no coating	Slight coating	Coating/cracks/small ulcers	Thick coating/ discoloured/ blistered/ ulcerations/cracks/ bleeding		
Saliva	Watery consistency	Slight thickening	Thick and ropy	No saliva		

Source: Dickinson, H., Watkins, C., & Leathley, M. (2001). The development of the THROAT: the holistic and reliable oral assessment tool. *Clinical Effectiveness in Nursing*, 5(3). 104-110. Reprinted with permissions.