DENTAL EMERGENCIES

DENTAL PAIN IS AN EMERGENCY

DENTAL EMERGENCIES require immediate care! Good dental hygiene is important in order to avoid various health-related issues and possible escalation of an individual’s negative behaviors.

SOME FACTS about DENTAL EMERGENCIES

- Can cause extreme behaviors and agitation — especially in a non-verbal individual!
- Current AHCCCS Dental Benefit allows Dentists, Primary Care Physicians (PCPs), Emergency Rooms, and Urgent Cares to perform only limited care — Evaluation, Prescription of Antibiotics (for treatment of abscesses), and Pain Medications.

WHAT to WATCH FOR

Signals to watch for which may indicate a dental emergency:

- BEHAVIORAL CHANGES
- AGITATION/AGGRESSION
- INSOMNIA
- DECREASE or LOSS OF APPETITE
- CHEWING ONLY ON ONE SIDE
- AVOIDANCE OF CHEWY AND HARD FOODS
- SEVERE BAD BREATH (Halitosis)

RISK FACTORS (Causes)

Recognition of the following causes will help alert you to potential risks:

- Poor Dental Hygiene
- Family History of Dental Disease
- Smoking/Chewing Tobacco
- Dehydration/Dry Mouth
- Dry Mouth (Medication Induced):
  - Psychiatric Medications: Anti-Depressants, Mood Stabilizers, Major Tranquilizers
  - Anti-Seizure Medications
  - Heart Medications
- Individuals Requiring Assistance with Oral Hygiene
- Chronic Illness (Diabetes)

EMERGENCY

Get immediate medical attention from your physician or the ER/Urgent Care for ANY dental emergencies:

- FEVER
- GUM SWELLING
- SEVERE PAIN
- ORAL BLEEDING
DENTAL EMERGENCIES

HEALTH INFORMATION FACT SHEET

WHAT TO DO

- A DENTAL EMERGENCY MAY BE PREVENTED BY ENCOURAGING:
  - Daily Tooth Brushing (at least twice daily)
  - Flossing
  - Drinking Plenty of Water (as approved by doctor)
  - Avoiding Sticky Sweets (fruit rolls, candy)
  - Rinsing Mouth after Inhaled Medications and/or Sweets
  - Regular Dental Check-Ups for Prevention (See Dental Resources Below)
  - Including Dental Care/Insurance Coverage in Individual’s Spending Plan

- IDENTIFY A DENTAL EMERGENCY (look inside the mouth) WHEN YOU NOTE:
  - Behavior Changes
  - Agitation/Aggression
  - Insomnia
  - Decrease or Loss of Appetite

ARIZONA:
Donated Dental Services (DDS)
AZDentalFoundation.org
480-850-1474 • 866-340-4337

EAST VALLEY/MESA:
AZ School of Dentistry & Oral Health
480-248-8100

GLENDALE:
Midwestern Dental Clinic
623-537-6000

HYGIENE SCHOOLS: Cleanings Only
NAU/Flagstaff • 928-523-3500
MCC/Mesa • 480-248-8195
Mohave CC • 928-704-7788
Phoenix College • 602-285-7323
Rio Salado College • 480-377-4100
Pima CC/Tucson • 520-206-6090

PRIVATE DENTIST:
www.findadentist4.me

DENTAL MOBILE UNIT:
Community Dental Foundation
888-318-3388
Mobile Dentistry of Arizona
480-313-3310
Coronado Dental Clinic
480-461-1232

Maricopa County Integrated Health INTAKE (MIHS):
602-344-1005

ABUSE:
Give Back A Smile • 800-DOCTOR
www.givebackasmile.com
Smiles For Success • 800-920-2293
www.smilesforsuccess.org

ORTHODONTICS:
Smile for a Lifetime • 480-325-7500
Ortho Clinic for Kids • 480-248-8132
Smiles Change Lives • Web Only:
www.smileschangelives.org

DENTAL RESOURCES

ARIZONA SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY & ORAL HEALTH (ASDOH)
East Valley/Mesa: 480-248-8100
Glendale: Dental Care West • 623-251-4700
Ortho Clinic for Kids: 480-248-8132

DONATED DENTAL SERVICES (DDS)
AZDentalFoundation.org
To Apply: 480-850-1474 or 866-340-4337

TRIBAL
Contact Local Indian Health Services

REduced Fee & community dental Clinics IN the state of arizona
http://www.azda.org/pdf/CommunityDentalClinics.pdf

Check with your local County Department of Health or AHCCCS Health Plan for a provider in your community.

THE DENTAL EMERGENCIES FACT SHEET is #7 in a series of HEALTH INFORMATION FACT SHEETS compiled by the DDD Quality Assurance Unit. Fact Sheets are available upon request and posted on the Division’s Website: https://www.azdes.gov/developmental_disabilities/ (Click on “News & Events”).

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