

DENTAL EMERGENCIES

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Quality Assurance Unit • 602-771-8122

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.

RISK FACTORS (Causes)

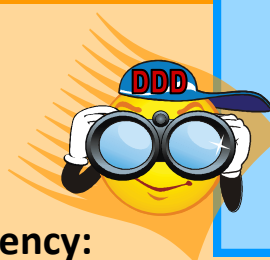


Recognition of the following causes will help alert you to potential risks:

- 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)

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)

EMERGENCY

Get immediate medical attention from your physician or the ER/Urgent



Care for ANY dental emergencies:

- FEVER
- SEVERE PAIN
- GUM SWELLING
- ORAL BLEEDING

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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)
 - Avoid 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
 - Chewing Only on One Side
 - Avoidance of Chewy/Hard Foods
 - Severe Bad Breath (Halitosis)

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 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>

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-DENTIST
 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/apply

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"). Issued June 2012

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