

**DENTAL PAIN**  
Level II (no Level I)

**Skill Level** RN

**Definition:** Severe discomfort associated with the teeth. A severe toothache usually involves one tooth. It is unusual to have several teeth causing extreme pain at once.

<p><b>Subjective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "I have a toothache."</li> <li>• "I broke my tooth."</li> <li>• "My gums hurt."</li> <li>• "I cannot sleep."</li> <li>• "My tooth throbs."</li> </ul>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alteration in comfort.</li> <li>• Potential alteration in nutrition.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <p>Any of the following may be present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lost fillings or caps.</li> <li>• Broken teeth.</li> <li>• Inflamed gums.</li> <li>• There may be no obvious clinical findings.</li> <li>• Mild localized intraoral swelling may be present.</li> <li>• No swelling or redness outside the mouth.</li> <li>• No fever (Temperature over 100.5 degrees) or any evidence of infection.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Plan:</b></p> <p><b>For Complaints of pain from cavities, broken teeth and sore gums that are not causing immediate extreme distress, instruct patient to send kyte to dental.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform dental department of the condition, and suggest an appointment with the dentist.</li> <li>• If visible swelling or fever, suspect infection. Refer to oral infection protocol.</li> <li>• If trauma, see appropriate protocol.</li> </ul> <p>At nursing discretion may use any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After checking for allergies to medications may suggest:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--Ibuprofen 200mg 1-2 QID prn from unit.</li> <li>--Tylenol or ASA 2 QID prn from unit if intolerant to Ibuprofen.</li> <li>--If available meds not effective, may use Naprosyn 500 mg BID prn for pain for 5 days instead. <b>(Always second line, not for pregnant patients)</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Instruct patient to keep any stimuli away from painful area.</li> </ul>

Dental Pain Level II

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.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Services Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dental Director

2/25/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Steve Shelton MD.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Director

2/24/2015  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Effective Date: 3/2015  
Revised: February 2015