



Canadian Oral Health Screening Tool for Seniors





Intervention Guide

Lips

1 = Mild to moderate abnormal condition	2 = Severe abnormal condition
<p>Red and swollen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the condition until it resolves (1 week). If the condition has not resolved, direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition 	<p>Ulcer with and without bleeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained, avoiding the ulcerated area • Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition
<p>Dryness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lubricate the lips with a water-based lip balm • Monitor the condition until it resolves (1 week). If the condition has not resolved, direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the condition for two weeks in accordance with the recommendations of the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician • Redirect the screened individual to the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician if clinical signs persist or worsen
	





**Professional with the competencies to manage care based on findings

Mucosa of the cheeks and lips

1 = Mild to moderate abnormal condition	2 = Severe abnormal condition		
<p>Localized redness or whitish patch(es)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained • Monitor the condition until it resolves (1 to 3 days). If the condition has not resolved, direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition 	<p>Generalized redness or whitish patch(es):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained • Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition • Monitor the condition for two weeks, in accordance with the recommendations of the authorized oral health professional** or physician • Redirect the screened individual to the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician if clinical signs persist or worsen 		
<p>Single ulcer of less than 0.5 cm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained, avoiding the ulcerated area • Direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition • Monitor the condition for two weeks and take pain control measures as needed in accordance with the recommendations of the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician 	<p>Single ulcer larger than 0.5 cm or multiple ulcers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained, avoiding the ulcerated area • Monitor the condition for two weeks and take pain control measures as needed in accordance with the recommendations of the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician • Redirect the screened individual to the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician if clinical signs persist or worsen 		
			





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Gums and palate

1 = Mild to moderate abnormal condition	2 = Severe abnormal condition		
<p>Localized redness or swelling of the gums, palate, or beneath the denture (partial or full):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve dental and denture (partial or full) hygiene measures, even in the presence of gum bleeding • Monitor the condition daily until it resolves (1 to 3 days). If the condition does not resolve, direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition 	<p>Generalized redness or swelling of the gums or palate, or beneath the dental protheses spontaneous bleeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve dental and denture (partial or full) hygiene measures, even in the presence of gum bleeding • Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition • Monitor the condition in accordance with the recommendations of the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician • Redirect the screened individual to the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician if clinical signs persist or worsen <p>Ulcer(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained, avoiding the ulcerated area • Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition • Monitor the condition for two weeks and take pain control measures in accordance with the recommendations of the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician • Redirect the screened individual to the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician if clinical signs persist or worsen 		
			



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Tongue

1 = Mild to moderate abnormal condition	2 = Severe abnormal condition		
<p>Circumscribed change in colour, smooth appearance, localized loss of texture uniformity, localized whitish patches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained • Monitor the condition until it resolves (1 to 3 days). If the condition has not resolved, direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition 	<p>Generalized change in colour and appearance, generalized loss of texture uniformity, generalized whitish patches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained • Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition • Monitor the condition for two weeks in accordance with the recommendations of the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician • Redirect the screened individual to the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician if the clinical signs persist or worsen <p>Ulcer(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained, avoiding the ulcerated area • Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition • Monitor the condition for two weeks and take pain control measures in accordance with the recommendations of the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician • Redirect the screened individual to the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician if the clinical signs persist or worsen 		
			





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Saliva

1 = Mild to moderate abnormal condition	2 = Severe abnormal condition
<p>Thin layer of saliva coating the mucosa, tongue and teeth. Tissues appear shiny and moist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained • Monitor the condition until it resolves (1 to 3 days). If the condition has not resolved, direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition 	<p>Apparent lack of saliva or minimal quantity of saliva coating the mucosa, tongue and teeth. Tissues appear dull and dry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained • Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or physician for management of the condition • Monitor the condition and ensure that tissue hydration measures are taken in accordance with the recommendations of the authorized oral health professional** or physician, i.e., drinking water in small quantities or moistening tissues with artificial saliva • Redirect the screened individual to the authorized oral health professional** or treating physician if the clinical signs persist or worsen
	

**Professional with the competencies to manage care based on findings

Teeth

1 = Mild to moderate abnormal condition	2 = Severe abnormal condition
<p>Superficial appearing cavity, tooth with minor fracture. Tooth mobility with no risk of tooth detachment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained • Direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** for management of the condition • Monitor the condition and be alert for signs of pain* that may indicate the worsening of the condition until management is taken over by the authorized oral health professional** 	<p>Deep appearing cavity with loss of tooth structure, tooth with major fracture or bare root, sharp tooth edge. Tooth mobility with risk of tooth detachment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained • Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** for management of the condition • Monitor the condition and be alert for signs of pain* that may indicate worsening of the condition until management is taken over by the authorized oral health professional**
	
	

*Refer to the Pain section.

**Professional with the competencies to manage care based on findings

Dental prosthesis

1 = Mild to moderate abnormal condition

2 = Severe abnormal condition

Minor break: one artificial tooth broken, worn or missing; alteration of portion of the structure having little to no impact on the denture's (partial or full) function. Adequate stability and retention. Denture's (partial or full) not identified:

- Direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** for management of the condition



Major break: several artificial teeth broken, worn or missing; alteration of portion of the structure, affecting the denture's (partial or full). Inadequate stability and retention. Denture's (partial or full) not identified:

- Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** or dentist* for management of the condition



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Implants

1 = Mild to moderate abnormal condition	2 = Severe abnormal condition
<p>Localized presence of biofilm, tartar and food debris on the implant; gum redness around the implant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained • Direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** for management of the condition 	<p>Generalized presence of biofilm, tartar and food debris on the implant; gum redness and swelling around the implant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that daily oral hygiene is maintained • Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional** for management of the condition
	

**Professional with the competencies to manage care based on findings

Hygiene of teeth and dental prosthesis

1 = Mild to moderate abnormal condition

2 = Severe abnormal condition

Localized presence of dental plaque, tartar and food debris:

- Increase tooth and dental protheses hygiene measures, even in the presence of gum bleeding
- Monitor the condition daily until it resolves (one week). If the condition has not resolved, direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional for management of the condition

Generalized presence of dental plaque, tartar and food debris. Foul mouth odour:

- Increase tooth and dental protheses hygiene measures, even in the presence of gum bleeding
- Immediately direct the screened individual to an authorized oral health professional for management of the condition
- Monitor the condition in accordance with the recommendations of the authorized oral health professional
- Redirect the screened individual to the treating authorized oral health professional if the clinical signs persist or worsen



**Professional with the competencies to manage care based on findings

Pain

1 = Mild to moderate abnormal condition	2 = Severe abnormal condition
<p>Occasional signs of mild to moderate pain: cries, aggressiveness, groaning, painful touch to the area, and mouthing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the screened individual to a physician or authorized oral health professional** for management of the condition • Monitor the pain and take pain reduction measures as needed in accordance with the recommendations of the treating physician or authorized oral health professional** 	<p>Frequent signs of severe intensity: cries, aggressiveness, groaning, painful touch to the area, and mouthing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately direct the screened individual to a physician or authorized oral health professional** for management of the condition • Monitor the pain and take pain reduction measures as needed in accordance with the recommendations of the treating physician or authorized oral health professional**



The pain must be related to an abnormal condition of the oral structures.

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