

Patient information

Denture marking

Denture marking provides easy recognition of the resident's dentures enabling them to be returned if lost. Lost dentures can impact on eating, speaking and self-esteem, leading to reduced quality of life and malnutrition.

The CQC¹ recommends that care homes have an awareness of and implement the **NICE guideline** for oral health in care homes².

The guideline should be the primary standard for delivering oral care, stating mouth care assessments should be completed on admission. If a resident has dentures, including partial dentures, it should be checked if these are marked or unmarked. If unmarked, the care home should offer to help. Care home managers should know how to arrange this for a resident with their permission.³

Dentures can be marked with the resident's name when they are made in the lab. Alternatively, if dentures do not have any identification, they should be marked with the resident's name to avoid loss. There are DIY marking kits commercially available.



Denture marking - existing dentures

Existing dentures can be temporarily marked using a simple technique that will last 6-12 months. The process takes about 10 minutes and can be carried out by a carer. Dentures should be checked periodically to ensure the name is still legible, and the marking renewed as necessary.

Public Health England - Oral Health for Adults in Care Homes⁴ provides guidance on carrying out denture marking:

Carry out denture marking in a well-ventilated area. Ensure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

You will need:

- Disposable gloves and apron
 - Antibacterial wipes
 - Denture paste or unperfumed soap
 - Denture marking kit which includes sandpaper squares (single use), metal propelling pencil (which must be cleaned after use with antibacterial wipe), approved sealant, disposable micro-brush or similar (single use).
1. Brush and clean dentures. Ensure the denture is fully dry.
 2. Roughen the denture with one square of sandpaper on the cheek side of the denture, as close to the back as possible. Dispose of the sandpaper.
 3. On the roughened surface write the residents name as small as possible with the pencil. Mark both the upper and lower denture.
 4. Break the lead from the tip of the pencil. The pencil should then be cleaned with soap and water and an antibacterial wipe.
 5. Using a micro-brush, dip once only into the bottle of sealant and replace the cap of the sealant immediately.
 6. Paint the sealant over the named area, being careful not to smudge the pencil mark. Discard the micro brush.
 7. Wait for 5 minutes and repeat instructions 4-5, using new micro brush then discard.
 8. The denture will be fully dry after about 10 minutes. Rinse the denture well and return to the resident.

Denture marking - new dentures

New dentures should be permanently marked during their manufacture. NICE⁵ recommends that dental practitioners ensure dentures made for individual residents are appropriately marked by the lab during manufacture.

Please report any dentures lost during admission to the patient advice and liaison service (PALS) by email PALS@wsh.nhs.uk or telephone 01284 712555. Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print, or audio format. Contact PALS on 01284 712555.

References

- 1 Reference smiling matters publication by the CQC. [Progress on recommendation 2 - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](#) .
- 2 Reference NICE guideline NG48 [Overview | Oral health for adults in care homes | Guidance | NICE](#)

- Image used with permission from Knowledge Oral Health Care

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its, please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk>



© West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust