

# Mouth care at the end of life

No broken fillings/dentures

No decay (holes) in the teeth

The mouth is clean

The gums, tongue and cheeks are healthy and pink

Mouth that is moist with saliva

Dentures are clean and fit well

No mouth ulcers or undiagnosed red or white patches



**Healthy mouth**

- M** Must assess the mouth and monitor any reported problems
- O** Observe the oral cavity and take oral history
- U** Ulcers and other oral lesions are uncomfortable and can cause pain
- T** Treat thrush and other oral problems
- H** Hydration: can the person take sips of fluid?
- C** Can the person brush their own teeth? Assist as required
- A** Access support from SLT and Dentistry if you require advice or appliances/aids to assist in oral care
- R** Reassess regularly to maintain comfort (especially at the end of life)
- E** Educate explain and encourage carer involvement in mouth care