



Safer Practice Notice

Status

- Active
- Updated
- Resolved

Zone Application

- Provincial
- North
- Edmonton
- Central
- Calgary
- South

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For Action By:

- Managers
- Educators
- Nurses
- Nursing Assistants
- Health Care Aides
- Housekeeping

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Preventing accidental ingestion of denture cleaners and other personal care or cleaning products

Issue

Cognitively and visually impaired clients in continuing care living settings may accidentally ingest cleaning or personal care products that are similar in appearance to candy or look-a-like hygiene products.

Denture cleaning products may not be considered a safety risk as they are used on client's teeth, but they **can cause severe injuries when ingested** such as respiratory distress and caustic burns.

Other examples of products that could be dangerous if ingested are:

- ointments or creams that look like toothpaste
- perineal wash that looks like mouthwash
- perfume or after shave that looks like mouthwash
- cleaning pods kept in kitchen or laundry areas that look like candy



Action

- Educate families and visitors to bring any new personal care products to the staff for evaluation and safe storage
- Ensure that personal care products belonging to the client or roommate(s) are kept in a secure location.
- Ensure that cleaning products in kitchen or laundry areas are kept in a locked cupboard
- Ensure that personal care products used by staff are not left on sinks or bedside tables
- Review the risk associated with the use of each personal care product. Wherever possible consider using less harmful products.
- If accidental ingestion occurs consult with **PADIS** (Poison and Drug Information Service) a 24/7 service available at **1-800-332-1414**