

# FRACTURED MANDIBLE

Level II

Skill Level: RN

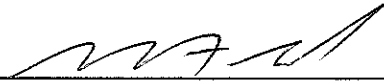
Definition: A break in the integrity of the mandible or facial bones.

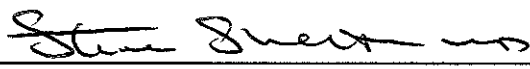
<p><b>Subjective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patient complains of pain.</li><li>• Patient states he/she cannot close his/her teeth together.</li><li>• "I was hit" or history of accident.</li><li>• Elicit history of injury; how, when and where.</li></ul>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alteration in facial bones.</li><li>• Alteration in oral mucosa.</li><li>• Alteration in comfort.</li><li>• Alteration in nutrition.</li><li>• Alteration in respiration.</li></ul>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May or may not be evidence of injury.</li><li>• Have patient point to focal point of tenderness.</li><li>• Swelling over focal point.</li><li>• Teeth out of alignment.</li><li>• Facial asymmetry.</li><li>• Check for any bones protruding through skin or oral mucosa.</li><li>• Pain when gritting teeth.</li></ul>	<p><b>Plan:</b></p> <p><b>Call the Dental Clinic and send the patient immediately to the dentist if possible. Check other institutions, if possible, to see if a dentist is available</b></p> <p>At nursing discretion may use any of the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Admit to infirmary or monitor closely.</li><li>• Check for allergies to medications.</li><li>• Place ice pack on for 20 minutes/off for 20 minutes for first 24 hours.</li><li>• Have patient use meds available on the housing unit to treat pain (handout).</li><li>• If available meds not effective, may use Ketoprophen 75 mg TID for 5 days instead. (Second line.)</li><li>• Call dentist or practitioner if any questions, including pain management questions.</li><li>• Inform dental department of the condition, and suggest an urgent appointment with the dentist.</li><li>• Liquid diet.</li><li>• Instruct patient to keep jaw as immobile as possible.</li><li>• Order x-ray. (To be done within 3 days.)</li><li>• ***Panorex preferred (May arrange transport to a facility with Panorex)***</li></ul>

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APPROVED:

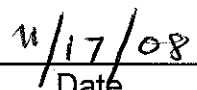
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Health Service Manager

  
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Dental Director

  
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Medical Director

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Date

  
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Rev: September 2008