NIL BY MOUTH

Regular Mouth Care Required

Please consider administration routes for medications

Name: ___________________  H&C No.  ________________  NBM since:__________________
GUIDANCE FOR STAFF COMPLETING THE NIL BY MOUTH SIGN

NIL BY MOUTH SIGNS SHOULD BE CLEARLY VISIBLE TO ALL STAFF:

The decision to place a person NIL BY MOUTH (NBM) is often a complex one and should only be taken following a specialist assessment or consideration of the risks versus benefits and appropriateness of this decision; and, where possible, taking fully into account the individual’s wishes and the rest of the MDT’s views. The patient and or Family/Carer should be involved in the decision where appropriate.

- NBM may be recommended for people who have swallowing difficulties. Other reasons for a NBM recommendation could be for those, e.g. fasting for a procedure, post-surgery, in ICU, or receiving enteral nutrition.

- It is essential that the decision to place a person NIL BY MOUTH is clearly documented and communicated with all staff on the ward, including the MDT, support staff, and where appropriate family/carers/visitors.

- Consideration should be given to:
  - Medications: In certain cases, oral administration of critical/essential medications may continue, but only on the advice of a medical practitioner and pharmacist
  - Mouth Care: A regular mouth care regime should be in place
  - Nutrition & Hydration while NBM - plan should be in place
  - Referral to Dietetics (if appropriate)
  - Referral to Speech & Language Therapy for swallowing assessment (if appropriate)

Who may place a person NIL BY MOUTH?
Medical Practitioner in Charge, Registered Nurse, Speech & Language Therapist, Dietitian or other relevant Registered Health Care Professional.

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<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Refers to the Person being placed NIL BY MOUTH.</th>
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<tr>
<td>NBM since:</td>
<td>Refers to the Date the NIL BY MOUTH order commenced.</td>
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Please PRINT CLEARLY Overleaf: