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## Patient Information/ *Respiratory Diseases*

- Patients with poor oral health...untreated cavities and periodontal disease...may have increased risk for COPD and pneumonia.
- Bacteria from the mouth are frequently aspirated into the lungs.
- The tongue harbors pathogenic bacteria even in patients without teeth.
- Hospitalized patients with poor oral health are at increased risk of hospital acquired pneumonia (HAP) regardless of age and reason for admission.
- Oral hygiene is extremely important for hospitalized patients to lower risk of HAP and VAP.