

## Oral Assessment Guide (OAG)

The scores of the eight categories are summed. A normal mouth will receive a score of 8.

Category	Method of observation	Rating .1.	Rating .2.	Rating .3.
<b>Voice</b>	Converse with patient. Listen to crying.	Normal	Deeper or raspy	Difficulty talking or crying, or painful.
<b>Ability to swallow</b>	Ask patient to swallow.	Normal swallow	Some pain on swallowing	Unable to swallow
<b>Lips</b>	Observe and feel tissue.	Smooth, pink and moist	Dry or cracked	Ulcerated or bleeding
<b>Saliva</b>	Insert depressor into mouth, touching centre of tongue and the floor of the mouth.	Watery	Thick or ropy. Excess salivation due to teething.	Absent
<b>Tongue</b>	Observe appearance of tissue.	Pink, moist and papillae present	Coated or loss of papillae with a shiny appearance with or without redness. Fungal infection.	Blistered or cracked
<b>Mucous membrane</b>	Observe appearance of tissue.	Pink and moist	Reddened or coated without ulceration. Fungal infection.	Ulceration with or without bleeding
<b>Gingiva</b>	Gently press tissue.	Pink and firm	Oedematous with or without redness, smooth. Oedema due to teething.	Spontaneous bleeding or bleeding with pressure
<b>Teeth (if no teeth, score 1)</b>	Visual. Observe appearance of teeth.	Clean and no debris	Plaque or debris in localised areas (between teeth).	Plaque or debris generalised along gum line

(Adapted from Eilers et al, 1988)