

Healthy Smiles Project



Pediatric Office Guide to Oral Health Care

Children's
Hospital & Regional Medical Center

DELTA DENTAL
Washington Dental Service
Foundation
Community Advocates for Oral Health

Caries Risk Assessment

Yes	No	Questions:
		1. Are decay or white spot lesions visible?

IF “YES” TO QUESTION 1, APPLY FLUORIDE VARNISH, ENCOURAGE BRUSHING WITH TOOTHPASTE, AND HEALTHY DIET.

Yes	No	Questions:
		2. Has the child ever had any cavities or fillings?
		3. Has the mother (or primary care giver) had cavities or fillings in the past year?
		4. Have any of the child’s brothers or sisters ever had cavities or fillings?

WHILE ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE LINKED WITH A DENTAL HOME, IF THERE IS A “YES” RESPONSE TO ANY QUESTION, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CHILD BE REFERRED TO A DENTIST.

Conduct caries risk assessment.

If you see this:



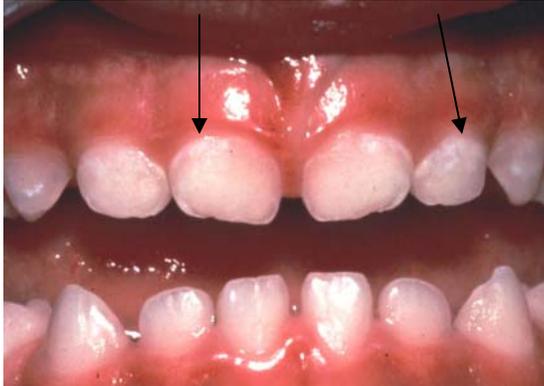
No Dental Disease

Do this:

- 1. Explain the importance of regular toothbrushing with toothpaste.**
- 2. Reinforce the need for making healthy food choices, especially low sugar choices.**

Conduct caries risk assessment

If you see this:



White Spot Lesions

Do this:

1. Apply fluoride varnish.
2. Make routine referral (next available appointment) to dentist.
3. Explain the importance of regular toothbrushing with toothpaste. Emphasize early decay can be reversed.
4. Reinforce need for making healthy food choices, especially low sugar choices.

Conduct caries risk assessment.

If you see this:



Mild Dental Disease

Do this:

1. **Apply fluoride varnish.**
2. **Make routine referral (next available appointment) to dentist.**
3. **Explain the importance of regular toothbrushing with toothpaste.**
4. **Reinforce need for making healthy food choices, especially low sugar choices.**

Conduct caries risk assessment.

If you see this:



Moderate Dental Disease

Do this:

1. Do not apply fluoride varnish.
2. Make urgent referral (within 1 – 2 weeks) to dentist.
3. Explain the importance of regular toothbrushing with toothpaste.
4. Reinforce need for making healthy food choices, especially low sugar choices.

Conduct caries risk assessment.

If you see this:



Severe Dental Disease

Do this:

- 1. Do not apply fluoride varnish.**
- 2. Make emergency referral (preferably same day) to dentist.**
- 3. Explain the importance of regular toothbrushing with toothpaste.**
- 4. Reinforce need for making healthy food choices, especially low sugar choices.**

Conduct caries risk assessment.

If you see this:



Dental Abscess

Do this:

- 1. Do not apply fluoride varnish.**
- 2. Make emergency referral (preferably same day) to dentist.**
- 3. If immediate dental care is not available, consider antibiotic prescription. Suggested antibiotics include Pen Vee and Clindamycin.**

Pediatric Office Guide to Oral Health Care was developed by the Healthy Smiles Project to help health care providers provide better oral health care to their patients. The project is implemented by Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center with funding from the Washington Dental Service Foundation.

Individual variation in the condition of the patient, status of patient and family, and the response to the treatment, as well as other circumstances, mean that the optimal treatment outcome for some patients may be obtained from practices other than those recommended in this document. This consensus-based document is not intended to replace sound clinical judgment or individualized consultation with the responsible provider regarding patient care needs.



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