

DENTAL CARIES: PRIMARY TEETH REFERRAL GUIDELINE

HIGH RISK SUGGESTED EMERGENT CONSULTATION

SYMPTOMS

- Cavitation (advanced disease), including pain/swelling, and possible infection
- Family history or sibling with sign of decay
- Special health care needs



SUGGESTED PREVISIT WORKUP

- Apply fluoride varnish
- Urgent referral to dentist
- Ongoing oral health screening every 6 months
- Ongoing health risk assessment every 6 months until age 3
- Ongoing dietary counseling and hygiene instruction

MODERATE RISK SUGGESTED CONSULTATION OR CO-MANAGEMENT

SYMPTOMS

- One or more behavioral risk factors*
- White spot lesions (early stage disease)
- Enamel defects, or other dental concerns



SUGGESTED WORKUP

- Apply fluoride varnish
- Referral to dental provider within 10-20 days
- Ongoing oral health screening every 6 months
- Ongoing health risk assessment every 6 months until age 3
- Ongoing dietary counseling and hygiene instruction

LOW RISK SUGGESTED ROUTINE CARE

SYMPTOMS

- No behavioral risk factors*
- No decay or other conditions
- No health concerns and following good dental home care
 - Daily brushing with fluoride toothpaste for at least 2 minutes each time
 - Limit juice/sweetened beverages
 - Avoid sticky and/or sugary foods



SUGGESTED WORKUP

- Ongoing oral health screening every 6 months
- Ongoing health risk assessment every 6 months until age 3
- Ongoing dietary counseling and hygiene instruction
- Recommendation or referral to dental provider

CLINICAL PEARLS

*Behavioral Risk factors:

- Lack of dental home or has not seen dentist in past 12 months
- Not brushing daily with toothpaste
- History of cavity or fillings
- Primary caregiver/mother has had active/untreated cavities in past 12 months
- Visible plaque on teeth
- Signs of visible decay or white spot lesions on teeth
- Evidence of other oral conditions of concern (abscess, broken tooth, pain, etc.)

Recommendation of AAP Age 1 Dental Home

From the First Tooth Periodicity Schedule for Primary Care:

Periodicity Schedule: Preventive Oral Health in Primary Care									
6 months	9 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	24 months	30 months	36 months	4 Y	5Y
Parent and Caregiver Education									
		Oral Evaluation		Oral Evaluation	Oral Evaluation	Oral Evaluation			
		Fluoride		Fluoride	Fluoride	Fluoride	Fluoride	Fluoride	Fluoride
Refer/ Recommend to the dentist									



These clinical practice guidelines describe generally recommended evidence-based interventions for the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of specific diseases or conditions. The guidelines are: (i) not considered to be entirely inclusive or exclusive of all methods of reasonable care that can obtain or produce the same results, and are not a statement of the standard of medical care; (ii) based on information available at the time and may not reflect the most current evidenced-based literature available at subsequent times; and (iii) not intended to substitute for the independent professional judgment of the responsible clinician(s). No set of guidelines can address the individual variation among patients or their unique needs, nor the combination of resources available to a particular community, provider or healthcare professional. Deviations from clinical practice guidelines thus may be appropriate based upon the specific patient circumstances.