

DENTAL HYGIENE SERVICE INFORMATION PAGE

Saving Smiles of Maine offers preventive dental care through their Saving Smiles for Miles Program –preventive dental services- include:

DENTAL HYGIENE SCREENING (MEDICAL/DENTAL)
DENTAL PROPHYLAXIS (CLEANING)
FLUORIDE APPLICATION AND/OR REMINERALIZING AGENTS
SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE AND/OR ANTIMICROBIAL DESSENSITIZING AGENTS
TEMPORARY FILLINGS (FLUORIDE RELEASING)
PREVENTIVE DENTAL SEALANTS (CONTAIN FLUORIDE)
INDIVIDUAL ORAL HYGIENE INSTRUCTION
IMAGING (X-RAYS, INTRA-ORAL PHOTOS, ETC.)
EDUCATION ON DIETARY RISKS FOR DECAY, SUMMARY OF SERVICES, AND REFERRALS
TELE-DENTISTRY COMMUNICATION WITH PARTNERING DENTISTS

The Saving Smiles for Miles program is a public health dental hygiene service that is primarily school-based and provides care once a year in alternative settings. This service does not replace the comprehensive routine care of a licensed dentist.

Poor oral health can lead to decreased school performance, poor social relationships, and less success later in life. Children experiencing oral pain are distracted and unable to concentrate on schoolwork. (U.S. General Accounting Office. 2000. Oral Health: Dental Disease Is a Chronic Problem Among Low-Income and Vulnerable Populations. Washington, DC: U.S. General Accounting Office.) <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO/HEHS-00-72>

FLUORIDE VARNISH

Fluoride varnish is a highly concentrated form of fluoride that is applied to tooth surfaces by oral health professionals or other health professionals to prevent dental caries. Fluoride varnish applied every 6 months is effective in preventing dental caries in the primary and permanent teeth of children and adolescent at moderate to high risk. For those at high risk, receiving fluoride varnish every 3 months may provide additional caries prevention benefit. It has FDA approval as a medical device. Marinho VC, Higgins JP, Logan S, Sheiham A. 2002. Fluoride varnishes for preventing dental caries in children and adolescents. Cochrane Database of Systemic Reviews (1):CD002279. <http://www.cochrane.org/reviews/en/ab002279>

SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE (SDF)(*contraindicated for those with silver allergies)

SDF is an antimicrobial desensitizing liquid made up of a silver fluoride salt, and ammonia, that can slow down and, in some cases, stop the progression of decay turning the cavity itself black. It has FDA approval as a medical device. See more detailed information with photos regarding SDF information at these links:

<https://www.astdd.org/www/docs/sdf-fact-sheet-09-07-2017.pdf>
https://www.elevateoralcare.com/site/images/AASDF%20Image%20Sheet_092619.pdf



DENTAL SEALANTS

Dental sealants are thin plastic coatings that are applied to the pits and fissures (grooves) on the chewing surfaces of molar teeth. Available evidence suggests that sealants are effective and safe to prevent or arrest the progression of non-cavitated carious lesions compared with a control without sealants or fluoride varnishes. Key Words. Glass ionomer sealants; resin-based sealants; caries prevention; caries arrest; pit-and-fissure sealants; systematic review. JADA 2016;147(8):631-645 AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION - GUIDELINES ON SEALANTS LINK: <https://ebd.ada.org/en/evidence/guidelines/pit-and-fissure-sealants>

RADIOGRAPHS (X-RAYS) (*dental disease cannot be thoroughly identified without radiographs)

Radiographs are taken by licensed clinicians and will be diagnosed by a licensed dentist within 21 days of being taken.

TEMPORARY FILLINGS

Temporary filling is a short-term use material which can restore missing tooth structure until such time as definitive treatment of the tooth is possible. It may incorporate sedative materials for pulpal pain. (Temporary filling | definition of temporary filling by Medical dictionary medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/temporary+filling)

- **IMPORTANT** -This is not a permanent restoration. *We recommend patients be seen by a dentist within 30 to 60 days of temporary filling placement to prevent your condition from getting worse. *

TELE-DENTISTRY: A variety of electronic communication methods including sharing records, X-rays, and photo images can be used to coordinate care between the hygienist who is seeing your child at school and the dentist who can coordinate more complex dental treatment if needed. collection of means to enhance care and education delivery. (ADA, 2015, <https://www.ada.org/en/about-the-ada/ada-positions-policies-and-statements/statement-on-teledentistry>)

PARENTS QUESTIONS ON QUALIFICATION FOR SERVICES

My child has MaineCare dental insurance. Do we qualify for preventive dental care through the Saving Smiles for Miles Program? Yes, we accept MaineCare Insurance.

My child has a regular dentist. Can he/she have preventive dental care through the Saving Smiles for Miles Program instead? No, we encourage people who receive regular dental care with a dentist to stay with their dental home. We cannot see patients that have a dentist that they see regularly every year.

My child has regular dental insurance coverage. Will that cover services through the Saving Smiles for Miles Program? No, we do not accept all insurances. We are a provider for MaineCare participants.