

DENTAL HYGIENE SERVICE INFORMATION PAGE

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

Screening by a Dental Hygienist
Dental Prophylaxis (cleaning)
Fluoride Application and/or Remineralization Agents
Silver Diamine Fluoride and/or Antimicrobial Desensitizing Agents
Preventive Dental Sealants
Individual Oral Hygiene Instruction
Dental Imaging (X-rays, Intra-Oral Photos, ect.)
Temporary Filling Placement
Summary of Services Rendered
Referrals to General Dentist and Oral Surgeons
Tele-dentistry Communication with a Dentist

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 an additional caries prevention benefit. (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> . html)

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

Silver Diamine Fluoride is an antimicrobial desensitizing liquid that can slow down and, in some cases, stop the progression of decay turning the cavity itself black. See more information on <https://www.astdd.org/www/docs/sdf-fact-sheet-09-07-2017.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 <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. The use of telehealth systems and methodologies in dentistry. Telehealth refers to a broad variety of technologies and tactics to deliver virtual medical, health, and education services. Telehealth is not a specific service, but a 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.