

## 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  
Radiographs (x-rays)  
Temporary Filling Placement  
Summary of Services Rendered  
Referrals to General Dentist and Oral Surgeons

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

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 (CONTAIN FLUORIDE)

Dental sealants are thin plastic coatings that are applied to the pits and fissures (grooves) on the chewing surfaces of molar teeth. Most tooth decay experienced by children and adolescents occurs on these surfaces. Sealants prevent dental caries (tooth decay) by creating a physical barrier against bacterial plaque and food. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2009. Frequently Asked Questions. Dental Sealants. In Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Web site]. [http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/factsheets/sealants\\_faq.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/factsheets/sealants_faq.htm).)

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)

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

### TEMPORARY FILLINGS (FLUORIDE RELEASING)

A 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](http://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. \**

### 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 and those who qualify that have no dental coverage.

**My child has no insurance. How do I know if he/she qualifies for preventive dental care through the Saving Smiles for Miles Program?** If your child has no dental insurance coverage and qualifies for school free/reduced lunch then they qualify for care.