

Tips for Screeners

To maintain privacy when calling out conditions identified in the screening, it is best to use numbers only and avoid naming categories such as “Treated Decay” or “Untreated Decay.”

1. Untreated Decay (1 = yes, 2 = no)
2. Treated Decay (1 = yes, 2 = no)
3. Sealants Present (1 = yes, 2 = no)
4. Treatment Recommendations codes, as appropriate.

Clarifying Treatment Recommendation Codes

Code 1: No obvious Problems

This designation indicates the child has no apparent need for a dental appointment outside of the regularly recommended 6 month check-up. Decay on primary teeth about to be exfoliated falls into this category.

Code 2: The child should be evaluated for prophylaxis (cleaning) or sealants. Gingivitis, heavy plaque, or calculus may be present; or the child has teeth which would benefit from sealants.

Code 3: Dental care is recommended, preferably within 3-4 weeks, when:

- Decay is detected, without accompanying signs or symptoms (e.g. pain, swelling, infection, soft tissue lesions).
- Spontaneous bleeding gums are noted.
- Suspicious white or red soft tissue areas are observed.

Code 4: Urgent/Emergency need for dental care recommendation is indicated when pain, infection and/or swelling are present.

