

ENDODONTIC PROTOCOL

Endodontic therapy at the MOM Program is indicated for teeth of critical importance that can be restored adequately and predictably at the current MOM event. It is not a service to be performed on teeth that would require more complex restoration than is possible at the program. This will only delay the ultimate loss of the tooth and thus possibly create a hurdle for the patient in the near future. These teeth without a doubt should be extracted.

Endodontics should be considered to be performed on a tooth:

- With adequate coronal tooth structure present and no loss of cuspal structure that would preclude final restoration at the program. (Example- a pulpal exposure on a permanent molar with no loss of cusps.)
- With an existing crown and no decay present.
- That is an abutment for an existing fixed or removable partial denture and can be successfully restored at the current MOM event.

All teeth being considered for endodontic treatment will be evaluated by the endodontic department lead. He/she will determine the practicality of performing endo on a tooth based upon radiographic interpretation, restorability and difficulty of the case. He/she may need to consult with the restorative lead before making final decision.

Once a patient is referred to endodontics, the following protocols should be followed:

1. Just as in a dental office or clinic, Universal Precautions must be adhered to. This includes wearing personal protective equipment. Gloves, masks, eye protection, and gowns must be used during patient treatment. ALL those providing treatment shall wear disposable gowns. Gloves, masks, and disposable gowns will be provided. All providers, including assistants, are expected to bring their own eye protection.
2. The paper charts are NOT to be touched with gloved hands at any time.
3. Verify informed consent has been initialed.
4. Complete patient registration form to indicate the service provided and treating dentist name.
5. Please PRINT on the patient charts – DO NOT USE ABBREVIATIONS
6. Only BLUE pens should be used on patient charts – NO BLACK ink.
7. Use your station cards when you need the following assistance:
 - a. Yellow – translator needed
 - b. Orange – equipment problems
 - c. Purple – requesting a Nomad x-ray
 - d. White w/ red cross – EMT needed
8. When you are ready for a patient, the dental assistant will go to the endodontic department waiting area to get the next person in line. When treatment is completed, the dentist should take the patient to record verification and wait while the data entry person verifies that the record is complete. The patient ambassador will take the patient from there, along with the clipboard and patient record, to the pharmacy if needed, otherwise directly to the exit area.

9. Spanish and Hmong translators are available.
10. If you stick yourself or are stuck with an instrument, immediately notify the department lead who will follow the needle stick/sharp instrument protocol.
11. Please bring your DEA number for prescription writing purposes. The department lead will have MOM prescription forms available. Prescription forms will not be needed for Acetaminophen, Amoxicillin, Clindamycin and Ibuprofen. Those will be indicated on the patient registration form and the patient will receive those free of charge onsite. You are encouraged to give the Ibuprofen/Acetaminophen protocol for pain relief. **Any MOM pain med prescriptions written will be for 3 days only and the patient will pay for it at the offsite pharmacy of their choice.**
12. Please stagger your breaks.

STERILIZATION and INSTRUMENTS

1. Remove all sharps from the instruments before taking them to sterilization – do not walk on the clinic floor with sharps. Instruments that came in a cassette should be put back into the cassette before being taken to Sterilization.
2. All instruments will be bagged or wrapped in Sterilization.
3. You or your assistant are responsible for making sure that your personal instruments are identified as yours when they go through sterilization. To ensure this, drop your instruments off at the side of the table marked “Used Personal Instruments” and have your name written on the sterilization pouch(es) and leave the pouch(es) on the tray with the instruments. You will pick them up at the “Clean Personal Instruments” station. Unless instruments are in a cassette, they will need to be individually bagged so make sure that there are enough bags with your name on them to do so.
4. If you are using instruments provided at the event, be sure to take them to the “Used MOM Instruments” side of sterilization or to the designated bins in your treatment area.
5. Broken ADCF instruments should be returned to sterilization, do NOT throw them away.
6. Suction lines need to be flushed after every patient per the MOM protocol. There is a container with line cleaner to be used. Use one small paper cup of line cleaner after each patient.
7. Scrap amalgam and teeth with amalgam shall be placed in the appropriate containers for amalgam disposal located in the restorative department.
8. Biowaste shall be placed in the appropriate red biowaste containers. **Please do not put non-biowaste, such as used gowns and gloves in the red containers as it adds unnecessary expense to the disposal.**
9. Before leaving your station at the end of your shift, be sure to wipe down all surfaces of the chair and dental equipment with a Caviwipe, including foot pedal and leave the used Caviwipe on the chair so we know it was done. Return all unused supplies to the supply area.
10. **DO NOT adjust chair height** - ask dental equipment technician or department lead.

PLEASE BE FLEXIBLE and THANK YOU for participating today.