Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program

**Dental Referral Classification Guide**

This guide is intended to be used by CHDP/EPSDT providers when referring children for dental services. Classifications are determined by the urgency of treatment needs.

### Class I: No Visible Dental Problems
- **No decalcification, caries, or gingivitis**

  Mandated annual routine dental referral (beginning no later than age 1 and recommended every 6 months)

**Appears Healthy but Needs Routine Referral**

### Class II: Beginning Dental Problems
- **White decalcification/initial decay, small carious lesions, or gingivitis**

  The patient is asymptomatic. Condition is not urgent, yet requires a dental referral “before progression occurs.”

**White Decalcification/Initial Decay**

**Small Carious Lesions**

**Mild Gingivitis**

### Class III: Urgent Dental Problems
- **Large carious lesions, abscess, extensive gingivitis, or pain**

  Urgent dental care is needed. If abscess is suspected ensure that child is seen within 24 hours. Condition can progress rapidly to an emergency.

**Early Childhood Caries (ECC)**

**Large Carious Lesions**

**Abscess**

**Extensive Gingivitis**

**Note:** For severe medically handicapping malocclusion or craniofacial anomaly refer child to a dentist or California Children's Services (CCS).

### Class IV: Emergent Dental Problems
- **Acute injury, oral infection, or other painful condition**

  Immediate dental referral. Emergency dental treatment is required within 24 hours.

**Acute Injuries**

**Oral infection/Cellulitis**

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