

Preventive Dental Visit and Tooth Decay Treatment Services



PREVENTIVE DENTAL VISITS

<i>Service</i>	<i>Description</i>
Dental cleaning	Dental providers use tools to scrape, brush, and floss the teeth to remove plaque.
X-rays	Tooth decay is not always visible upon examination. Dental providers take x-rays to check for signs of disease, including tooth decay, between, inside, and under the teeth.
Fluoride	Dental providers may apply fluoride, as a liquid, gel, foam, or varnish with a brush or tray on the child's teeth.
Dental sealants	Dental sealants protect tooth enamel from the acids produced by bacteria in plaque. Dental providers apply the dental sealant, a protective plastic coating, to the chewing surfaces of the teeth.

TOOTH DECAY TREATMENTS

<i>Service</i>	<i>Description</i>
Fillings or restorations	The dental provider removes the decayed parts of the tooth. Then, he or she fills the area with a filler substance, such as amalgam (silver fillings) or tooth-colored glass or ceramic.
Root canals	The dental provider drills into the affected tooth and removes the damaged pulp, the innermost layer of the tooth. The dental provider then fills and seals the tooth, and places a crown, or cap, on the tooth to restore the tooth's strength and appearance.
Extractions	The dental provider may pull the tooth if tooth decay penetrates the pulp, the innermost layer of the tooth, and the tooth cannot be repaired with a filling or a root canal.