

SB68 – Dental Hygienist Advanced Practice Permit FAQ

Q: What is Silver diamine fluoride?

A: Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is a clinically applied treatment that controls active dental caries and aids in preventing further progression of the disease. SDF has a dual mechanism of action resulting from the combination of its ingredients. The silver component acts as an anti-microbial agent killing bacteria and preventing the formation of new biofilm, while the fluoride acts to prevent further demineralization of tooth structure. Application of SDF is simple and noninvasive. Initially, the teeth are brushed without paste and rinsed. The carious teeth are isolated, kept dry, and all excess debris is removed. A microbrush is dipped in a drop of SDF and placed on the lesion(s) for two minutes. Then, excess SDF is removed and patients are instructed to not eat or drink for one hour.

Q: What is atraumatic restorative technique?

A: Atraumatic restorative treatment (ART), otherwise known as “scoop and fill”, is an alternative treatment for dental caries. The demineralized and insensitive outer carious dentin is removed with hand instruments only, requiring no electricity or anesthesia. After removing the carious tooth substance with hand instruments, the cavity is filled with conventional self-hardening glass ionomer cement. Pain and anxiety are significantly lower in both children and adults who receive ART therapy compared to conventional therapy. ART was developed primarily for use in community and school-based programs. Because electricity is not needed, and the equipment is portable and easily set up, the ART methodology is particularly appropriate for use in schools, nursing homes and personal residences. ART costs less than conventional amalgam restorations.

Q: What is Chlorhexidine?

A: Chlorhexidine, also known as chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG), is a disinfectant and antiseptic that is used for skin disinfection before surgery and to sterilize surgical instruments. It may be used both to disinfect the skin of the patient and the hands of the healthcare providers. It is also used for cleaning wounds, preventing dental plaque, treating yeast infections of the mouth, and to keep urinary catheters from blocking.

~ Provided by Sen. Giessel