The American Dental Association 2016 Clinical Practice Guideline Takeaways

1) PREVENTION: SEALANTS PREVENT CAVITIES IN PERMANENT AND PRIMARY MOLARS
2) QUALITY: SEALANTS CAN PREVENT THE PROGRESSION OF EARLY NON-CAVITATED CARIOUS LESIONS
3) EFFICACY: BOTH RESIN OR GLASS IONOMER MATERIALS ARE APPROPRIATE

Recommendations:

• Sealants are effective in preventing and arresting pit-and-fissure/occlusal carious lesions of primary and permanent molars in children and adolescents compared with the nonuse of sealants or use of fluoride varnishes alone.
• Sealants can minimize the progression of non-cavitated occlusal carious lesions that receive a sealant.
• There does not appear to be an advantage of one type of sealant material over the others.

Oral Disease Prevention

• Each tooth sealed saves more than $11 in future dental treatment costs over a four year period
• Preventing future dental disease and decay promotes overall health and could prevent more invasive and complex procedures
• Dental sealants are part of the arsenal of evidence-based preventive tools available to dentists, just as are community water fluoridation and topical fluoride

Quality Practice Standards

• Dental sealants inhibit the progression of caries lesions in primary and permanent molars
• Following the ADA Practice Guidelines by placing dental sealants over incipient lesions can arrest caries
• Sealant application on permanent 1st molars is a Dental Quality Alliance 2022 measure
• Dental sealants have been shown to reduce the incidence of caries by up to 76% on occlusal surfaces of teeth compared to teeth not receiving sealants during a two to three year follow-up period

Efficacy of Dental Sealants

• Dental sealants as a preventive procedure lowers aerosol burden for dental healthcare workers
• Glass ionomer dental sealants can be placed in a manner that is effective for special healthcare needs populations
• Placing dental sealants is a time-effective procedure with high value for patients- entire dental teams can work together to place dental sealants

Actionable Items

• Allow dental auxiliaries to support your workflow and encourage their certification to place dental sealants according to local state dental board regulations
• Place dental sealants on all primary and permanent molars without cavitated occlusal decay
• Use of dental sealants is an effective disease prevention option for all populations