

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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