

MISSION OF MERCY

DENTAL SCREENING PROTOCOL

Here are treatment priorities:

- Removal of infected, painful or non-restorable teeth
- Basic restorations to improve or prolong function of the dentition
- Endodontic therapy for restorable anterior teeth
- Simple resin flippers for missing anterior teeth (6 teeth or less)
- Gross debridement to remove significant accretions
- Routine prophylaxis
- Triage treatment that can be completed in 45 minutes

Oral health education should be stressed throughout the patient's experience

Dental Screening and Dental Triage walk a fine line between what the patient desires and that treatment which may be best for the patient in the long run given the time allotted to the patient. This may require a negotiating process with the patient. Patients will be asked about their chief complaint. Screening dentists will determine if and which X-rays are needed to aid in determining treatment. Triage dentists will determine up to three priorities in collaboration with the patient.

Do not talk about potential treatment the patient might receive in a dental office. Talk only about the treatment they will receive today.

1. Only **BLUE** pens should be used on patient charts — NO **BLACK INK**. Please PRINT all information and do not use abbreviations, they may not be universal to the wide variety of volunteers here.
2. If an x-ray is needed before a treatment determination can be made, give the patient an x-ray routing card and indicate what type of image (pan, periapical, bitewing) and which area (or teeth).
3. Patients routed to oral surgery will need an X-ray.
4. Print the triage doctor's name and chair number on the form.

5. When screening is completed, have a patient Ambassador take the patient chart and patient X-ray waiting.
6. Interpreters are available and wearing **RED** MOM T-shirts

Lastly, please be flexible; remember this is a mission type of dentistry. Try to prioritize in their best interest. If there is obvious infection, it will be of more importance than replacing a missing anterior.

Patient Re-entry

A patient who has one of the treatment priorities completed may go back in line outside or return the next day to have additional treatment

- Patient will have a yellow copy of their Registration / Treatment Form
- Patient will get a new wrist band in Patient Registration
- Patient will by-pass Patient Education
- Patient will be seen in Medical Triage
- Patient will be seen in Dental Screening to determine if additional X-rays are needed
- Patient will bypass Dental Triage since they have additional priorities identified on the Registration / Treatment Form
- Patient will be escorted from Dental Screening to Routing.