

Population-Based Dental Health Metrics

Revised, January 2005

1. Record the following population-based health metrics at every periodic dental examination performed on an Active Duty Air Force patient. If providers elect to perform risk assessment on other patients who would benefit from implementation of risk-related preventive strategies (i.e. OCONUS family members, ARC, other Services), it should be noted, DDS-W will only track Active Duty Air Force.
2. All providers who perform periodic dental exams should read the Special Supplement on Caries Diagnosis and Risk Assessment in the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, Vol.126, June 1995.

Caries Risk Assessment

In the “Caries” block, enter the number that best describes that patient’s caries risk:

1. Low Caries Risk:
 - No carious lesions in the last three years
 - Adequately restored surfaces and/or coalesced/sealed pits & fissures
 - Good oral hygiene
 - Regular dental visits
2. Moderate Caries Risk:
 - At least one carious lesion in the last year
 - Exposed roots and/or deep, uncoalesced, unsealed pits & fissures
 - Fair oral hygiene
 - Localized- White spots and/or incipient interproximal radiolucencies
 - Irregular dental visits
 - Orthodontic treatment
 - Inadequate fluoride exposure
3. High Caries Risk:
 - 2 or more cavitated carious lesions diagnosed during current exam. A cavitated carious lesion is a lesion that has penetrated the tooth’s solid surface and is no longer considered reversible through remineralization.
 - Past root caries/large number of exposed roots
 - Deep pits and fissures
 - Poor oral hygiene
 - Frequent sugar intake
 - Inadequate or no systemic or topical fluoride exposure
 - Irregular dental visits
 - Inadequate salivary flow
 - Generalized- White spots and/or incipient interproximal radiolucencies

Since all AF patients are expected to have “periodic” dental examinations, clinicians should give greater weight to objective signs and history/evidence of carious lesions than to frequency of dental visits. If in doubt as to which caries risk number is appropriate, use the higher number. The criteria listed for each risk category are not “all or none”. A patient may not exhibit all of the risk factors for a specific category. If a patient displays some risk factors from more than one category, the provider must choose the appropriate category to place the patient in. Document the caries risk as low, moderate or high in the “Treatment Narrative” section on the AF 644. When using an overprinted AF 644 or a stamp for exam entries, add a space for the caries risk assessment so that the information gets transferred from the AF 644 onto the SF 603/603A.

Periodontal Screening

In the “PSR 0” block, enter the number of sextants (0-6) for which the patient has a PSR score of 0

In the “PSR 4” block, enter the number of sextants (0-6) for which the patient has a PSR score of 4

Tobacco Use Information

In the “Other” block enter the number that corresponds to the patient’s tobacco use:

0 = no tobacco use

1 = smokes tobacco products only

2 = uses smokeless tobacco products only

3 = uses both smoking and smokeless tobacco