

## Placement of Temporary Restorations

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All registrants may perform restorative procedures of a temporary nature as part of their scope of practice, in any setting. The performance of restorations of a temporary nature is dependent on the competence of the dental hygienist and the needs of the client. A dental hygienist must always inform the client that the restoration is temporary and must refer the client to a dentist for further examination and treatment.

The primary reasons that a dental hygienist would consider the insertion of a temporary restoration are to free the client from pain and to reduce the possibility of further damage to the tooth until the client is able to see a dentist.

The materials usually employed are zinc-oxide eugenol, glass ionomer or other medicated/non-medicated temporary cements. Temporary restorations may be placed in either primary or permanent teeth as a preventive measure when:

- Access to a permanent restoration is not immediate or practical
- There is a reasonable risk of further damage to the tooth structure
- The pulp is not exposed
- The client is in discomfort or is experiencing difficulty in eating
- The discomfort is due to recent trauma, fracture or lost dental restoration
- The client has not received any medical/dental advice that would contraindicate placing a temporary restoration
- The client consents to the treatment and it is in the client's best interest to proceed
- There are no medical contraindications to the restorative material

The client record must indicate the tooth restored, the material used and the notification to the client that the restoration is temporary. The referral to a dentist must be noted.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Does a registered dental hygienist need to have a restorative specialty certificate to place a temporary restoration?**

No. All registered dental hygienists may perform restorative procedures of a temporary nature as part of their scope of practice, in any setting, provided that they are competent to do so.

### **Can a registered dental hygienist place a temporary restoration on a client if a dentist is in the office?**

Yes. Provided that the dentist and dental hygienist believe that a temporary restoration is in the best interest of the client at that time, then a temporary restoration may be placed by the dental hygienist.

### **Can a registered dental hygienist temporarily re-cement a crown that has come off while scaling?**

If a dentist is not available to re-cement the crown then the dental hygienist may re-cement the crown using a temporary adhesive following the guidelines for placing a temporary restoration. The dental hygienist must then advise the client to see a dentist as soon as possible to address the tooth.

### **Can a temporary restoration be placed if full access to the lesion is not easily available?**

Temporary restorations should not be performed in situations where professional judgment indicates that removal of tooth structure is required for proper placement of the temporary restoration.

### **What is IST?**

Interim Stabilization Therapy (IST) is a temporary restoration procedure and an important therapeutic intervention that is used to free a client from pain and prevent further damage to a tooth until the client can get the tooth addressed by a dentist. IST requires no anaesthetic and uses a fluoride-releasing material known as glass ionomer cement. The fluoride in the glass ionomer cement helps to remineralize the affected lesion. In IST the affected tooth is prepared by removing any soft debris (plaque and/or food particles) from the lesion. A conditioner is then added and a glass ionomer is placed in accordance to the manufacturer's instructions.

### **How is IST different from any other temporary restoration procedure that dental hygienists in Ontario can perform?**

IST does not differ much from any other temporary restoration procedure. It is simply the name given to the procedure being used for the Health Canada Ontario region First Nations Inuit Health Branch COHI program. The only difference is that IST uses strictly glass ionomer cement as the temporary restorative material.

July 2010

