



State of Maine

Board of Dental Examiners

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Protocols for the Placement of Temporary Fillings by Independent Practice Dental Hygienists

The Maine State Board of Dental Examiners recognizes the unique position of the Independent Practice Dental Hygienist and his or her role in serving the needs of the citizens of Maine. Among the various procedures an Independent Practice Dental Hygienist may perform in their non-traditional dental setting is the appropriate placement of temporary fillings.

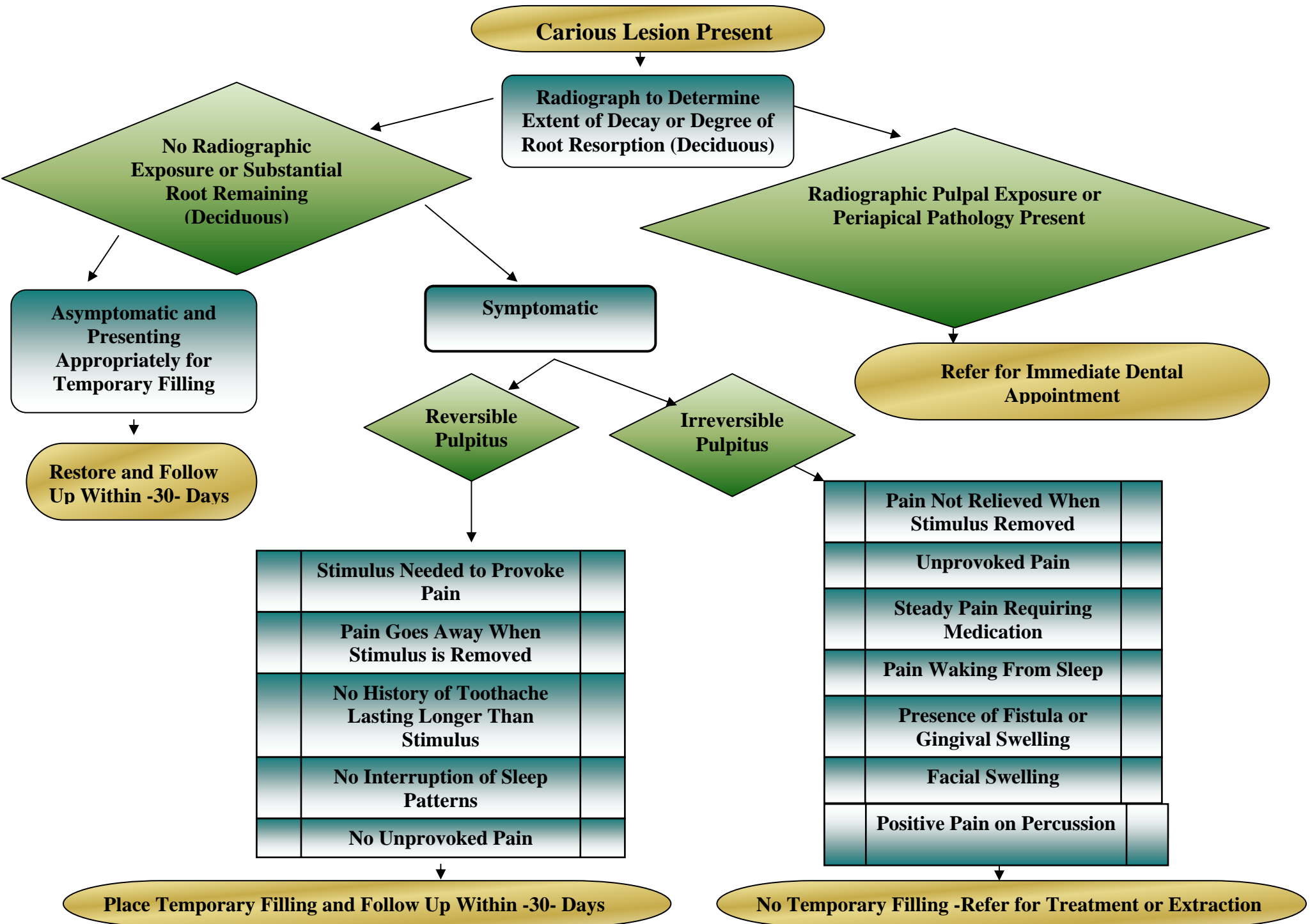
The Board directs that any temporary filling material must be of a nature that is not harmful to the tooth, and preferably be fluoride releasing. Desiccants and/or pulpal irritants are unacceptable as temporary filling materials.

The Board reminds its licensees that the standard of care in the placement of any dental restoration would include the use of diagnostic films or images. The Board recognizes that the Independent Practice Dental Hygienist does not have this tool at their disposal.

The Board reminds Independent Practice Dental Hygienists that not all carious lesions are candidates for temporary restorations. These protocols include the following algorithms for the Independent Practice Dental Hygienist to follow when deciding if a carious lesion in a tooth is to receive a temporary filling or whether it is to be left untreated. These algorithms should be used to determine the appropriateness of the placement of temporary fillings.

Pulpal Pathology Protocol

Figure 1.

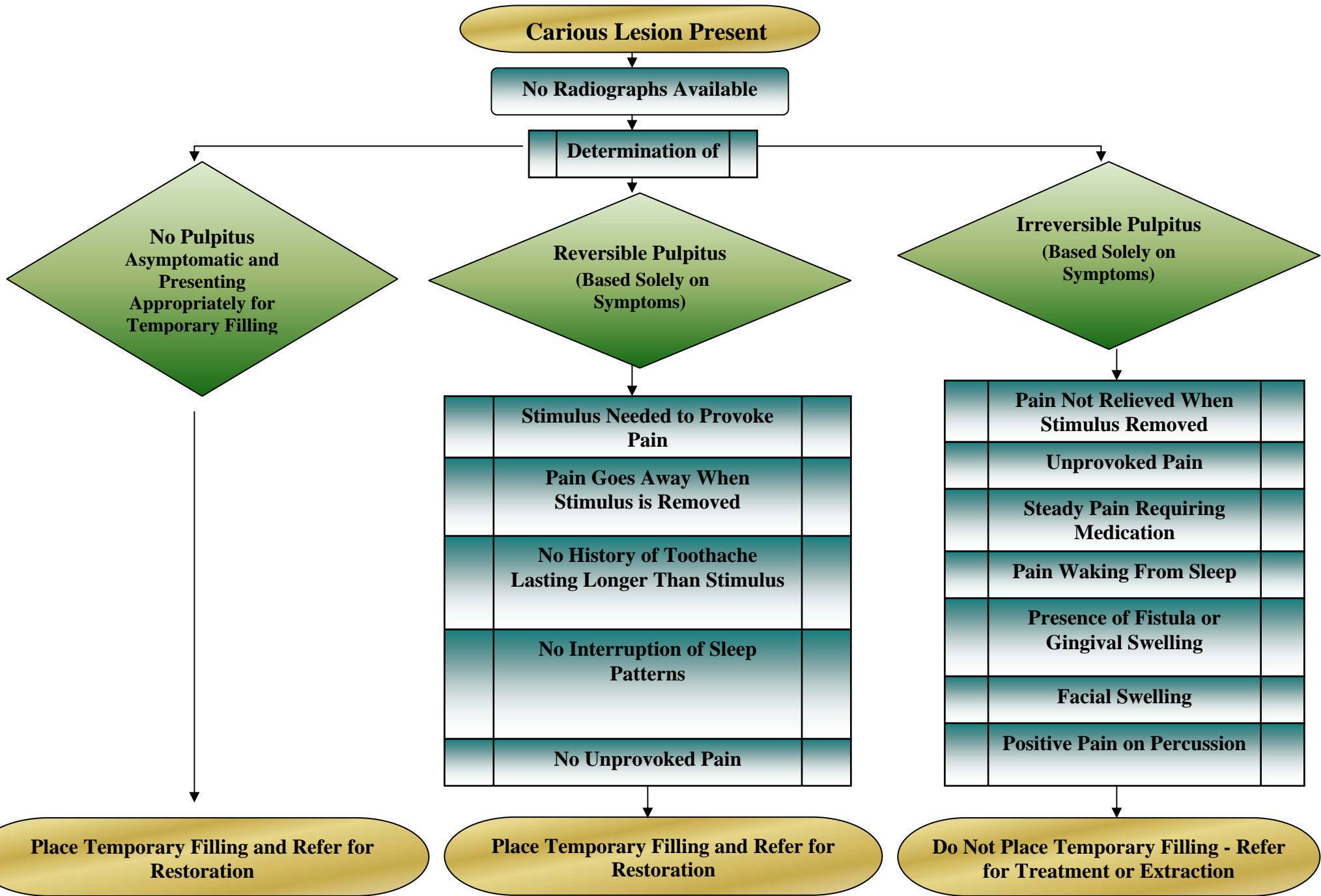


	Stimulus Needed to Provoke Pain	
	Pain Goes Away When Stimulus is Removed	
	No History of Toothache Lasting Longer Than Stimulus	
	No Interruption of Sleep Patterns	
	No Unprovoked Pain	

	Pain Not Relieved When Stimulus Removed	
	Unprovoked Pain	
	Steady Pain Requiring Medication	
	Pain Waking From Sleep	
	Presence of Fistula or Gingival Swelling	
	Facial Swelling	
	Positive Pain on Percussion	

Pulpal Pathology Protocol

Figure 2.



Carious Lesion Present

No Radiographs Available

Determination of

**No Pulpitis
Asymptomatic and
Presenting
Appropriately for
Temporary Filling**

**Reversible Pulpitis
(Based Solely on
Symptoms)**

**Irreversible Pulpitis
(Based Solely on
Symptoms)**

Place Temporary Filling and Refer for Restoration

Place Temporary Filling and Refer for Restoration

Do Not Place Temporary Filling - Refer for Treatment or Extraction

Stimulus Needed to Provoke Pain

Pain Goes Away When Stimulus is Removed

No History of Toothache Lasting Longer Than Stimulus

No Interruption of Sleep Patterns

No Unprovoked Pain

Pain Not Relieved When Stimulus Removed

Unprovoked Pain

Steady Pain Requiring Medication

Pain Waking From Sleep

Presence of Fistula or Gingival Swelling

Facial Swelling

Positive Pain on Percussion