



State of Maine Board of Dental Examiners

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Protocols for the Placement of Temporary Fillings by PHS Hygienists February 2006

The Maine State Board of Dental Examiners recognizes the unique position of the Public Health Supervision hygienist and his or her role in serving the needs of the citizens of Maine. Among the various procedures a PHS hygienist may perform in their non-traditional dental setting is the appropriate placement of temporary fillings.

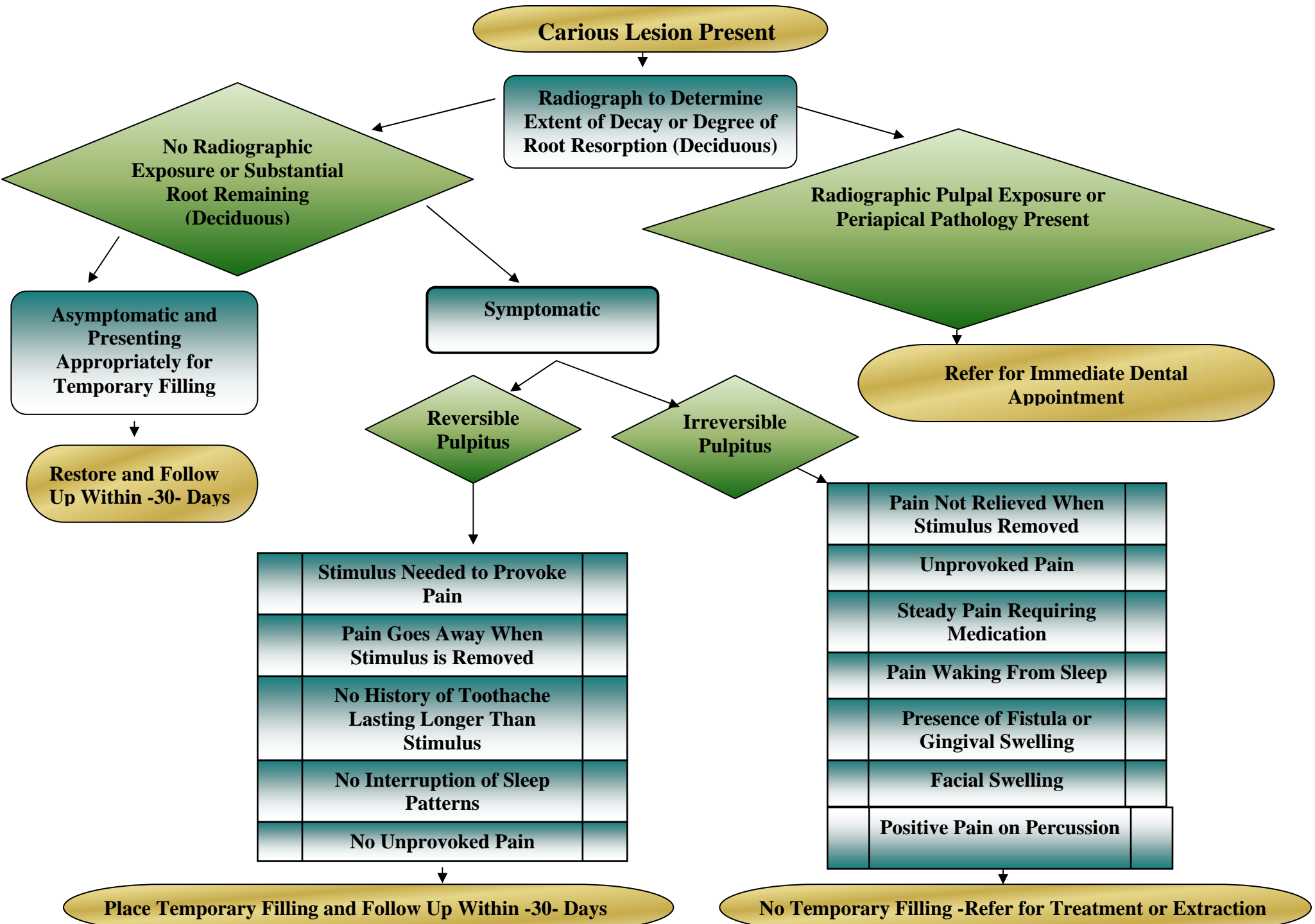
The Board directs that any temporary filling material must be of a nature that is not harmful to the tooth, and preferably be fluoride releasing. Desiccants and/or pulpal irritants are unacceptable as temporary filling materials.

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 PHS hygienist more often than not does not have this tool at their disposal. Whenever possible, however, the Board expects the PHS hygienist to obtain pre-operative films or images.

The Board reminds PHS hygienists that not all carious lesions are candidates for temporary restorations. These protocols include the following algorithms for the PHS 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.

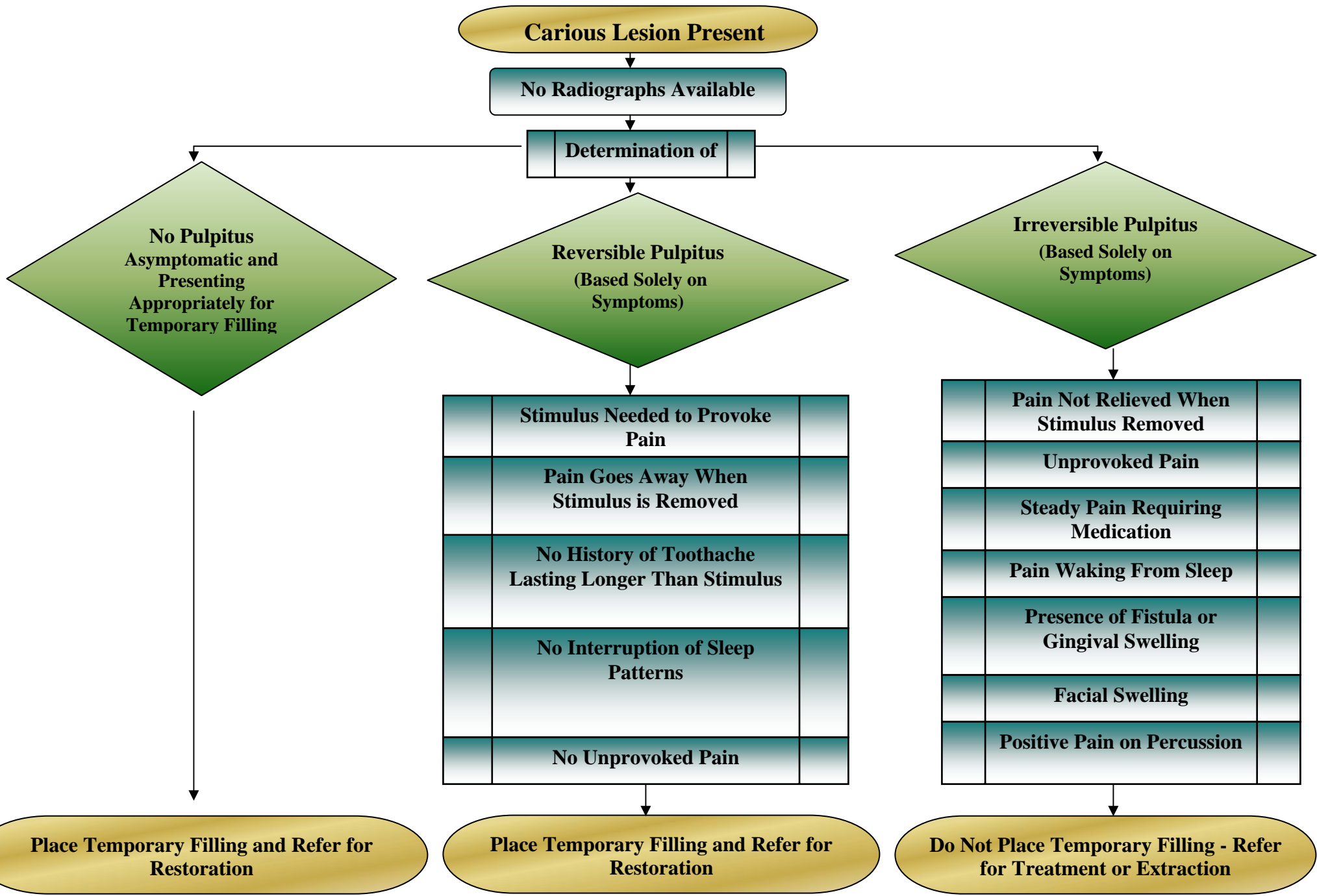


Stimulus Needed to Provoke Pain	
Pain Goes Away When Stimulus is Removed	
No History of Toothache Lasting Longer Than Stimulus	
No Interruption of Sleep Patterns	
No Unprovoked Pain	

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)**

**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

**Place Temporary Filling and Refer for
Restoration**

**Place Temporary Filling and Refer for
Restoration**

**Do Not Place Temporary Filling - Refer
for Treatment or Extraction**