



## Oral Health Screening Policy

2003 House Bill 3157, which was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, allowed the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) to develop written training and screening protocols so Dental Hygienists, and Dental Assistants could independently perform Oral Health Screenings in Oregon.

The OBD on January 23, 2004 determined that no additional training was necessary for Oregon Dental Hygienists or Oregon Dental Assistants. To comply with Oregon Law, screening results must be provided to individuals screened or to the parents or guardians of minors needing a dental referral for diagnosis.

The OBD recommends using language that promotes oral health literacy, with the intent that screened individuals receive a standardized oral health screening form to facilitate access to follow-up oral health care. The following language may be used on any Oral Health Screening Form used by Oregon Dental Hygienists and Oregon Dental Assistants. The Board encourages others who may do Oral Health Screenings to use this language on their screening forms.

### Option A:

**This is an oral health screening for:** \_\_\_\_\_

A screening is a quick look and does not take the place of a complete examination by a Dentist or Dental Therapist. Serious oral health problems may be missed in a screening. The person doing the screening may or may not have any dental training. [Dental Hygienists or Dental Assistants may omit the previous sentence.]

## Dental Screening Results

<input type="checkbox"/>	No visible signs of oral problems. See your Dentist or Dental Therapist at least yearly for preventive dental appointments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visible signs of oral problems were found. Visit a Dentist or Dental Therapist in the next several weeks, before your child's next preventive dental appointment to treat possible cavities or more serious problems.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visible signs or symptoms of serious dental problems were found. Possible large cavities, pain, swelling, infection, or abscesses were present. A visit to a Dentist or Dental Therapist is recommended in the next 1 - 2 weeks.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evidence of trauma or severe swelling is present. An immediate visit to a Dentist, Dental Therapist, or Healthcare Provider is recommended in the next 0 - 48 hours.

**Option B:**

**This is an oral health screening for:** \_\_\_\_\_

A screening is a quick look and does not take the place of a complete examination by a Dentist or Dental Therapist. Serious oral health problems may be missed in a screening. The person doing the screening may or may not have any dental training. [Dental Hygienists or Dental Assistants may omit the previous sentence.]

**Dental Screening Results**

<input type="checkbox"/>	No visible signs of oral problems. See your Dentist or Dental Therapist at least yearly for preventive dental appointments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visible signs of oral problems were found. Visit a Dentist or Dental Therapist in the next several weeks, before your child's next preventive dental appointment to treat possible cavities or more serious problems.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visible signs or symptoms of serious dental problems were found. Possible large cavities, pain, swelling, infection, or abscesses were present. A visit to a Dentist or Dental Therapist is recommended in the next 0 - 2 weeks.