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# Dental Pilot Projects Program: Technical Assistance in Adverse Event Reporting Requirements

March 9th, 2020  
Webinar

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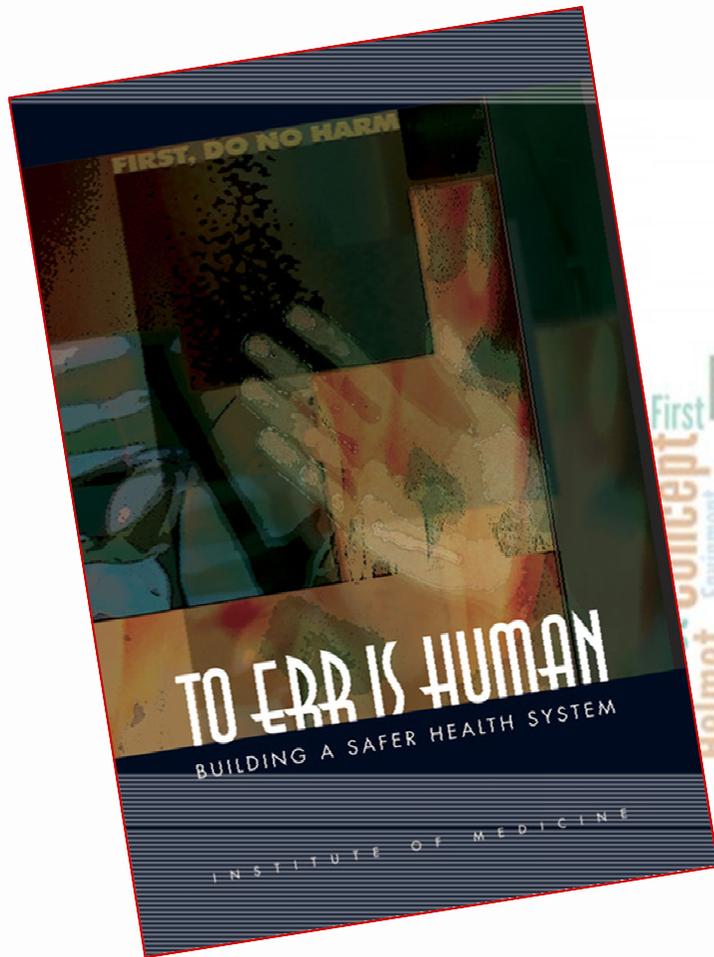
Oral Health Program  
Public Health Division

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# Dental Pilot Projects Program: Technical Assistance in Adverse Event Reporting Requirements

- Recognize differences in Adverse Events (AE) and Quality of Care
- Understand Adverse Event Reporting Requirements for Dental Pilot Projects
  - Identify **when** to report AE and **where** to report





# What is an Adverse Event (AE)?

- Adverse events are incidents of “**physical harm** that are due to treatment within a timeframe relevant to the clinical scenario”
  - The goal is to identify the Adverse Event (AE).
  - It is not relevant to determine or assign fault or blame to recognize that an Adverse Event (AE) occurred.



Example: Patient moved and explorer fell into a patient's eye.

**An AE occurred**



# Adverse Events vs Quality of Care

- Past confusion between Adverse Events and Quality of Care concerns in pilot projects
- Adverse Event system is objective
- Purpose of Adverse Event system is to allow standardization using a defined process to determine if an AE occurred and the severity of AE
- Objective system = less ambiguity for the program and projects, provides clarification, less misinterpretation of information



# Adverse Events vs Quality of Care

## Examples of Dental Adverse Events

- Painful dry socket
- Perforation of tooth due to endodontic treatment
- Pain following extraction/RCT without proper pain management
- Wrong tooth extraction
- RCT on wrong tooth
- Paresthesia following a dental procedure
- Death due to overdose of anesthesia
- Tissue necrosis due to bleaching or rubber dam clamp
- Allergic reactions to dental materials
- Laceration of lip/tongue/cheek during dental procedure



# Adverse Events vs Quality of Care

## Poor Quality of Care

- Chart Omissions/inadequate documentation
- Poor or no images
- Bad margins, overhangs that do not cause ST damage
- Porous material
- Non-retentive restorations
- Open contacts
- Caries remains
- Heroic Dentistry (dentistry that has poor prognosis for longevity)
- Errors



# Adverse Events (AE) of Care

AE's are  
when a  
patient is  
physically  
harmed...

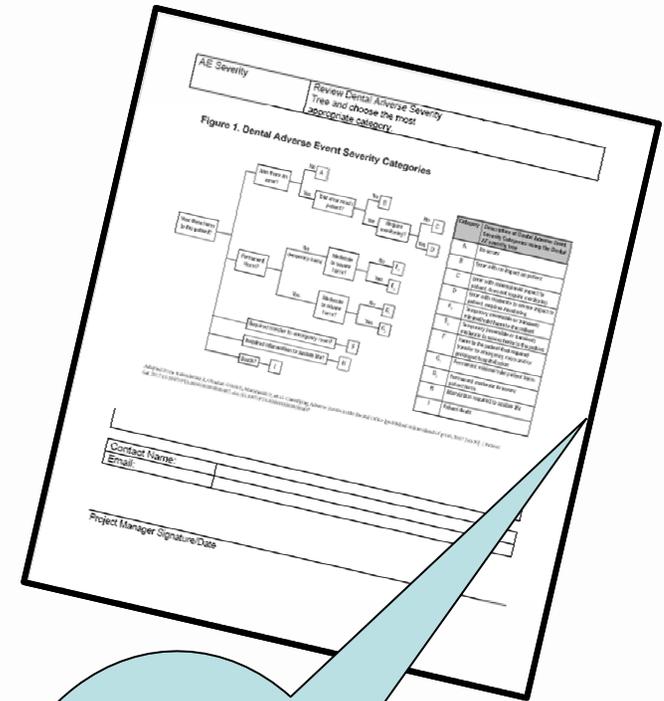
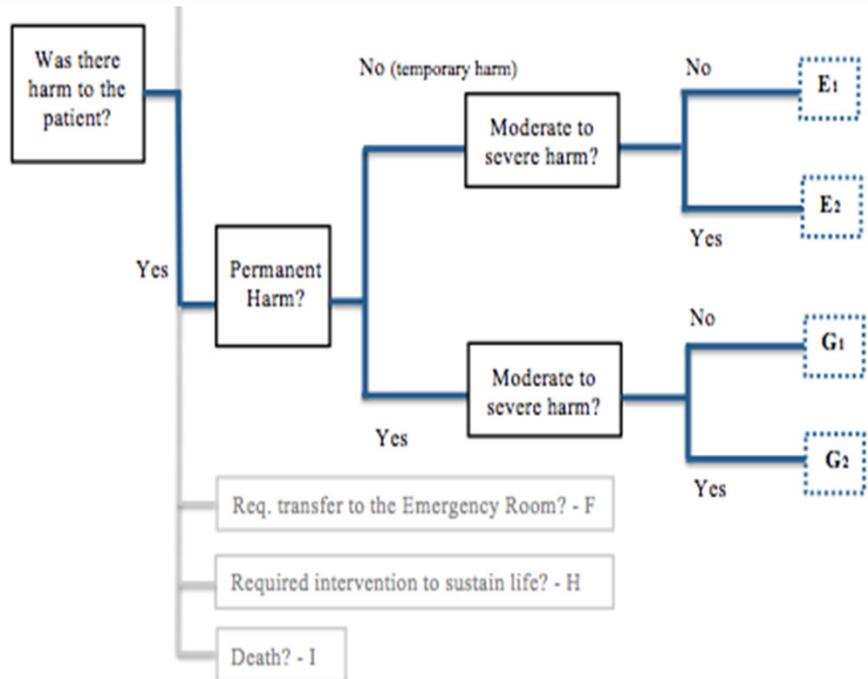
Yes!...so we  
need an  
objective  
system to  
determine  
the severity  
of the AE...

It's confusing  
to say an AE  
occurred  
without  
context! This  
is good for  
everyone! We  
need to define  
when a serious  
AE happened vs  
mild-temporary  
AE! Big  
differences  
between the  
two!





# Severity Tree



Page 2  
on  
Adverse  
Event  
Form

Kalenderian, E., Obadan-Udoh, E., Maramaldi, P., Etolue, J., Yansane, A., Stewart, D., & ... Walji, M. F. (2017). Classifying Adverse Events in the Dental Office. *Journal of Patient Safety*.

# Adverse Event Reporting Process

Adverse Events may be categorized by severity in relation to **patient harm**.

- Adverse Events or Suspected Adverse Events that classified as **E1**: Temporary (reversible or transient minimal/mild harm to the patient) must be reported in the **Quarterly Progress Reports**.
- Adverse Events or Suspected Adverse Events that classified as **E2 or greater**, must be reported to OHA **the day they occur or are found** to have occurred.

Category	Description of Dental Adverse Event Severity Categories using the Dental AE severity tree
A	No errors
B	Error with no impact on patient
C	Error with minimal/mild impact to patient; does not require monitoring
D	Error with moderate to severe impact to patient; requires monitoring
E <sub>1</sub>	Temporary (reversible or transient) minimal/mild harm to the patient
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F	Harm to the patient that required transfer to emergency room and/or prolonged hospitalization
G <sub>1</sub>	Permanent minimal/mild patient harm
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H	Intervention required to sustain life
I	Patient death

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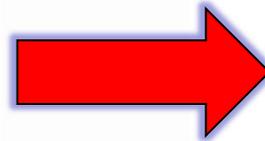
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# Quarterly Reporting

- Report Adverse Events (AE) **E1** in the quarterly reports.
- Provide a description of each Adverse Event determined during the current reporting period to the Oregon Health Authority.
- See “Quarterly Progress Reporting Requirements” document from OHA.

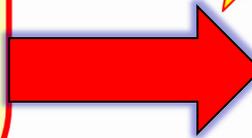


**E1:** Temporary  
(reversible or  
transient  
minimal/mild  
harm to the  
patient)

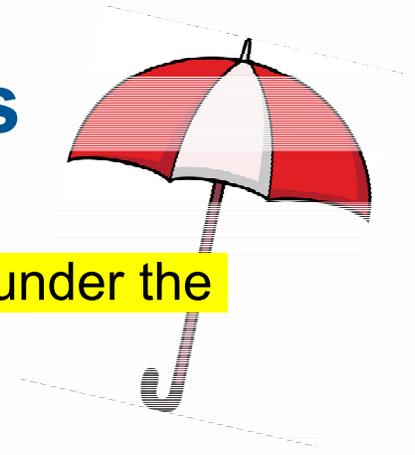


Goal is to identify Adverse Events

- Not blame patients, providers, etc.
- Ultimate goal is improve patient safety

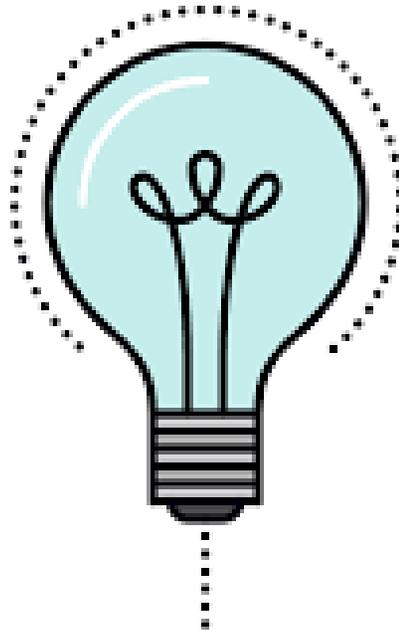
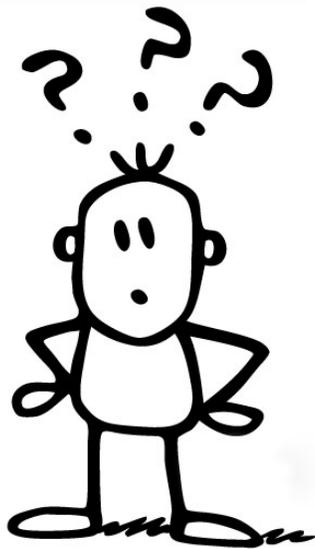


# Adverse Event Reporting Process



- **Report** Adverse Event's that occur for patient's treated under the **umbrella** of the Dental Pilot Project Program
- Administrative Rules 333-010-0760 **require** reporting of Adverse Events
  - E1 on quarterly report
  - E2 or greater on Adverse Event Reporting Form

# Adverse Event Reporting Process



Examples

## Scenario

Clinic Scenario: Patient is an 6 year old child. Patient receives dental treatment involving local anesthesia of the inferior alveolar nerve. Patient tolerates procedure well. Parents call the next day and report that the child has bitten their lip while they were numb. Diagnosed as ulceration of lip due to lip biting.



Traumatic Ulcer of Right Lower Lip

Source: Lip biting in pediatric dental patients following dental local anesthesia: a case report, J Pediatr Nurs. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2009 Dec 1.



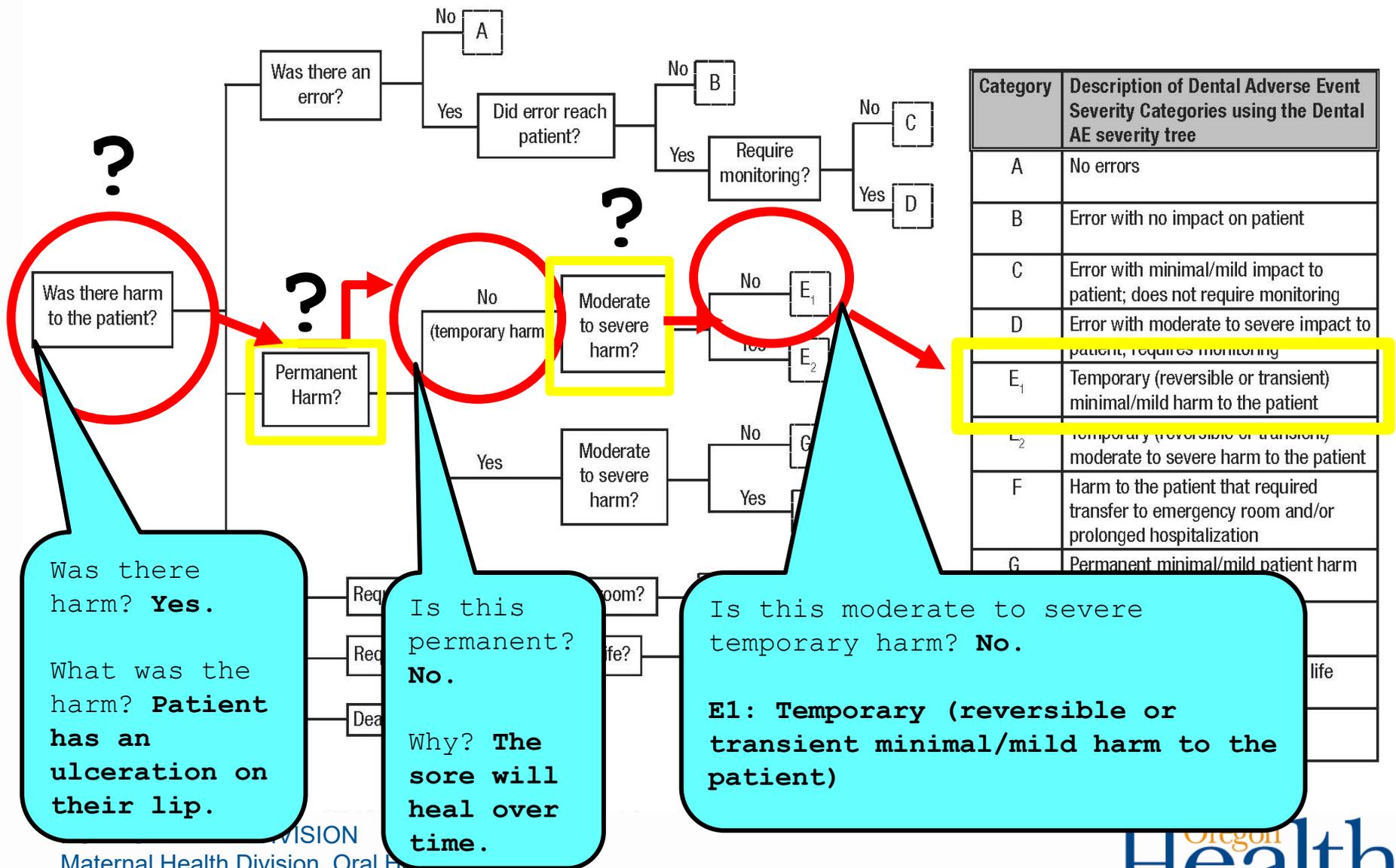
# Adverse Event Reporting Process

Is this an  
Adverse Event?



?

Was there physical  
harm?



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G <sub>2</sub>	Permanent moderate to severe patient harm
H	Intervention required to sustain life
I	Patient death

Adverse Events or Suspected Adverse Events that are determined to be an E1 must be reported on the Quarterly Report.

**E1:** Temporary (reversible or transient minimal/mild harm to the patient)

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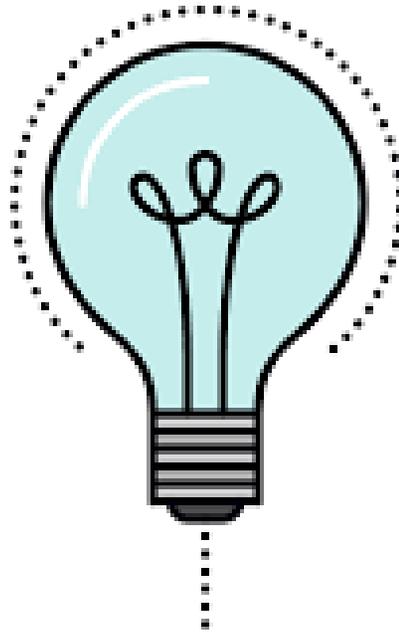
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# Questions

# Adverse Event Reporting Process



Next Example

# Scenario

Clinic Scenario:  
Patient is a 25 year old female. Patient was treatment planned to have #18 extracted. Provider extracted #19. Wrong tooth was extracted.



<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28546594>

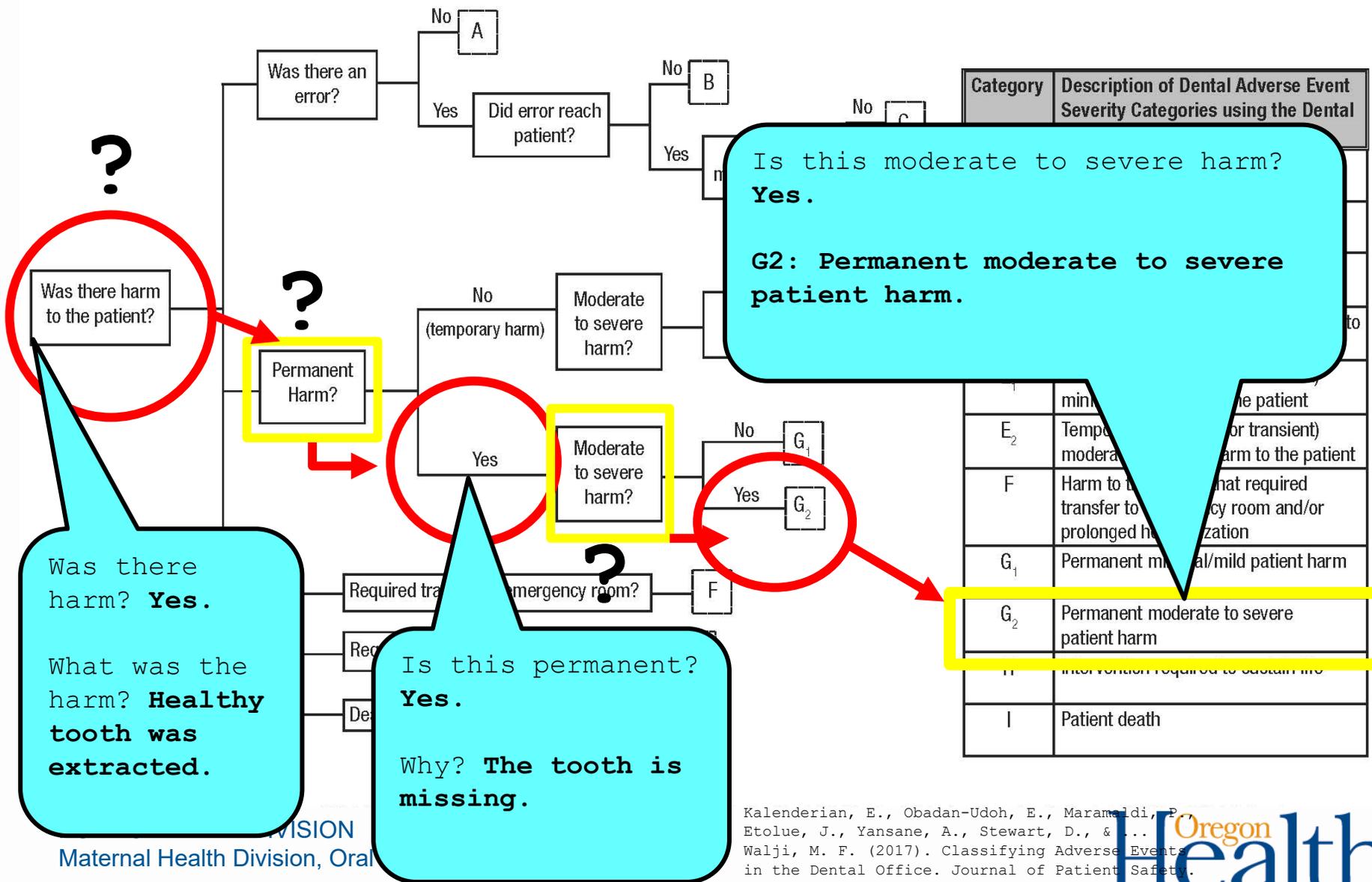


# Adverse Event Reporting Process

Is this an  
Adverse Event?



Was there physical  
harm?



Is this moderate to severe harm?  
**Yes.**  
**G2: Permanent moderate to severe patient harm.**

Was there harm?  
**Yes.**  
 What was the harm?  
**Healthy tooth was extracted.**

Is this permanent?  
**Yes.**  
 Why?  
**The tooth is missing.**

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G <sub>1</sub>	Permanent minimal/mild patient harm
G <sub>2</sub>	Permanent moderate to severe patient harm
H	Intervention required to sustain life
I	Patient death

Adverse Events or Suspected Adverse Events that are determined to be an **E2 or greater** must be reported on the **Adverse Event Reporting Form**.

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**Oral Health Unit**  
 Kate Brown, Governor

**Adverse Event Reporting Form**

**ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING:**  
 A sponsor must report severe Adverse Events to the Oregon Health Authority program staff the day they occur as outlined in OAR 333-010-0710. Adverse Event reports are prepared by project sponsor personnel with the intent that such reports will not contain information regarding the patient's identity. The information will be prepared as a brief anecdotal account to be submitted to the Oregon Health Authority.

"Adverse event" means harm caused by dental treatment, regardless of whether it is associated with error or considered preventable as defined under 333-010-0710.

Adverse Events may be categorized by severity in relation to patient harm as shown in Figure 1. Adverse Events or Suspected Adverse Events that classified as severe temporary or permanent harm (E2 or higher) must be reported to OHA the day they occur or are found to have occurred. Other Adverse Events or Suspected Adverse Events must be reported in a timely fashion.

OHA staff will then work with project staff to determine if the incident is an Adverse Event and to finalize Adverse Event severity and category classifications based upon submitted narratives and patient chart documents.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Contact Program Staff via telephone (971-673-1563) or email on the date of the incident.
- Complete Adverse Event Reporting Form and Submit the Completed Form via secured email to [saah@health.oregon.gov](mailto:saah@health.oregon.gov). Additional attachments must be in PDF format.
- If the incident is determined by OHA to be an Adverse Event, a sponsor must perform and later submit a Root Cause Analysis of the incident.

Dental Pilot Project:	
Reporting Date:	
Date of Incident:	
Address of Incident:	
Incident Description: Please be as specific as possible	
Procedure Name(s) and CDT Code(s) performed on patient:	

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**PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**  
 Maternal Health Division, Oral Health Program

**Oregon Health Authority**

# Adverse Event Reporting Process

- AE E2 or greater must be reported to OHA the day they occur or are found to have occurred
  - Dental Pilot Project Name:
  - Reporting Date:
  - Date of Incident:
  - Address or Location of Incident:
  - Incident Description:
  - Procedure Name(s) and CDT Code(s) performed on patient:

**PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**  
Oral Health Unit  
Kate Snow, Director

**ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING:**  
A sponsor must report adverse Adverse Events to the Oregon Health Authority program staff the day they occur as outlined in OAR 333-010-0710. Adverse Event reports are prepared by project sponsor personnel with the intent that such reports will not contain information regarding the patient's identity. The information will be prepared as a brief anecdotal account to be submitted to the Oregon Health Authority.

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OHA staff will then work with project staff to determine if the incident is an Adverse Event and to finalize Adverse Event severity and category classifications based upon submitted narratives and patient chart documents.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Contact Program Staff via telephone (503-473-1563) or email on the date of the incident.
2. Complete Adverse Event Reporting Form and Submit the Completed Form via secured email to [adverse@oha.gov](mailto:adverse@oha.gov). Additional attachments must be in PDF format.
3. If an Incident is determined by OHA to be an Adverse Event, a sponsor must perform and later submit a Root Cause Analysis of the incident.

Dental Pilot Project:	
Reporting Date:	
Date of Incident:	
Address of Incident:	
Incident Description: Please be as specific as possible	
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# Adverse Event Reporting Process

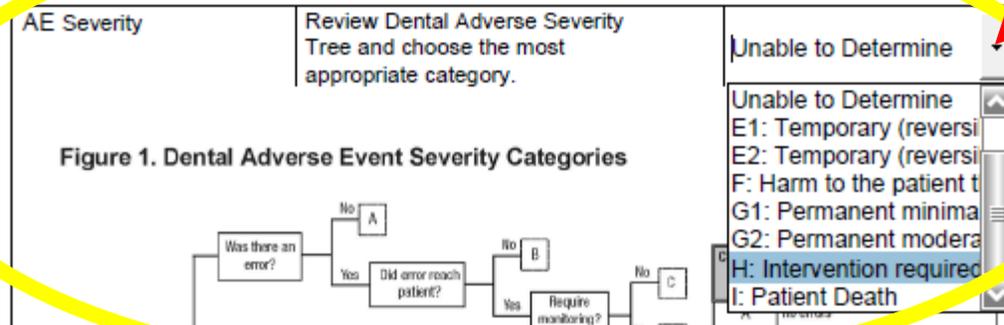
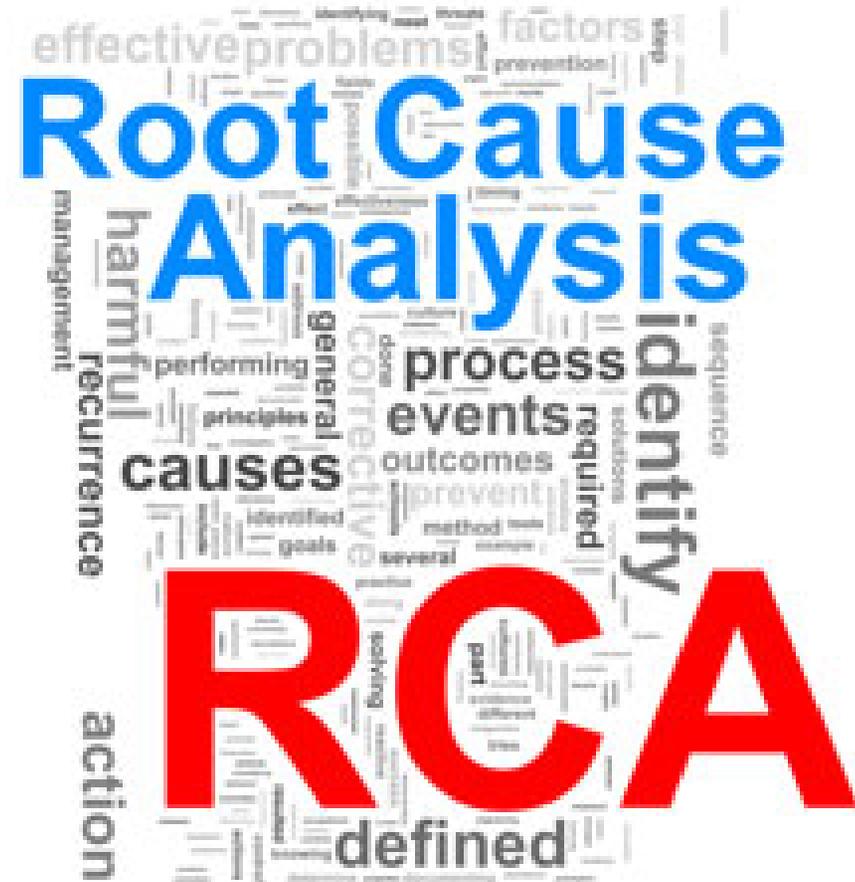


Figure 1. Dental Adverse Event Severity Categories

Category	Description of Dental Adverse Event Severity Categories using the Dental AE severity tree
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G <sub>2</sub>	Permanent moderate to severe patient harm
H	Intervention required to sustain life
I	Patient death

- Technical Assistance:** OHA staff will work with project staff, if requested, to determine if the incident is an Adverse Event and to finalize Adverse Event severity and category classifications based upon submitted narratives and patient chart documents.

- If the incident is determined by OHA to be an Adverse Event **E2 or greater**, a sponsor must perform and later submit a Root Cause Analysis of the incident.



# Root Cause Analysis

- Goal is to identify gaps in systems or processes
- Improve patient safety
- Prevent reoccurrence

## Example RCA Findings:

- Miscommunication between clinics
- Different teeth numbering systems
- Incorrectly mounted radiographs

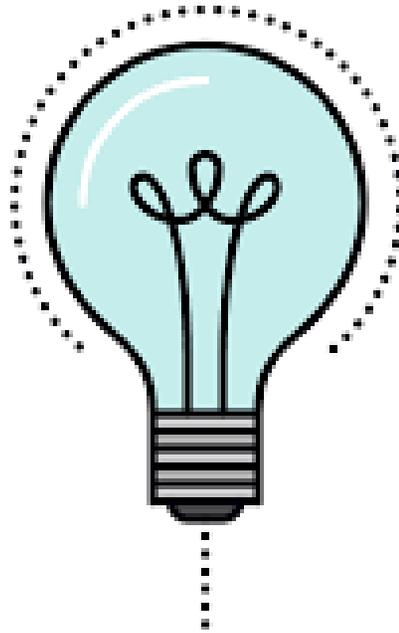


"Wrong Tooth Extraction: Root Cause Analysis"



# Questions

# Adverse Event Reporting Process



Next Example

# Scenario

Clinic Scenario:  
Patient presents for treatment on #30.  
Patient is incorrectly anesthetized on the opposite side, left lower quadrant.



# Adverse Event Reporting Process

Is this an  
Adverse Event?

 Was there physical  
harm? NO

Why?

Anesthetizing the wrong site  
is an **error**, not an **AE** unless  
**harm occurs**

# What are errors?

- Errors are unintended incidents that did not cause physical harm
- Example: anesthetizing the wrong side

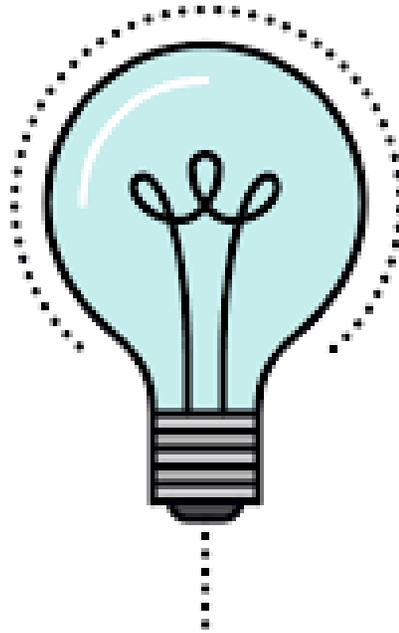






# Questions

# Adverse Event Reporting Process



Next Example

# Scenario

Clinic Scenario: Patient is 7 year old child. Provider places a stainless steel crown on #1.

Patient returns two months later complaining of tenderness around the crown.

Upon examination, excess cement is found and removed. Tissues are irritated.





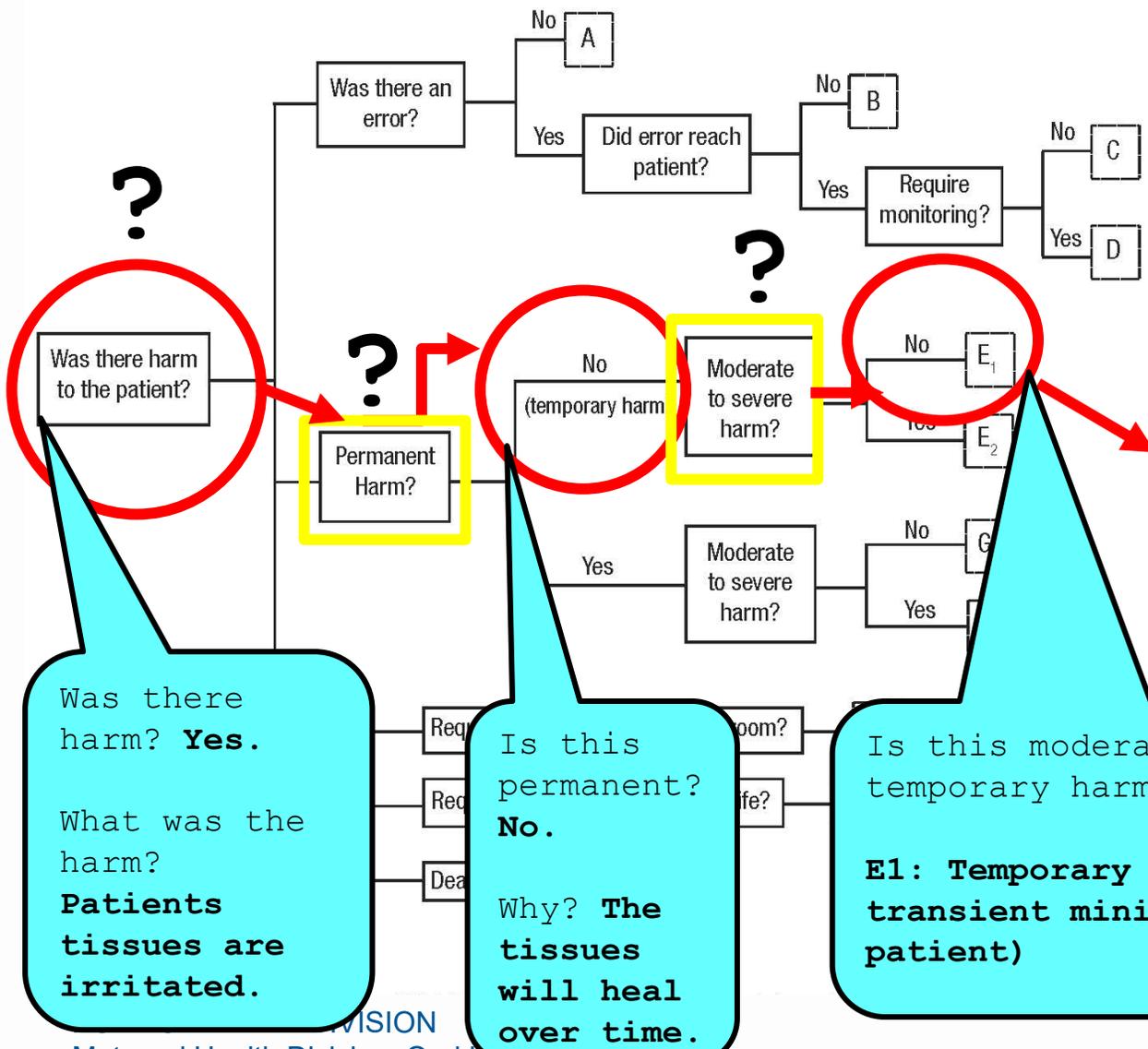
# Adverse Event Reporting Process

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Adverse Event?



?

Was there physical  
harm?



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G	Permanent minimal/mild patient harm

Was there harm? **Yes.**

What was the harm?  
**Patients tissues are irritated.**

Is this permanent? **No.**

Why? **The tissues will heal over time.**

Is this moderate to severe temporary harm? **No.**

**E1: Temporary (reversible or transient) minimal/mild harm to the patient)**

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Adverse Events or Suspected Adverse Events that are determined to be an E1 must be reported on the Quarterly Report.

**E1:** Temporary (reversible or transient minimal/mild harm to the patient)



# Questions

# Adverse Event Reporting Process



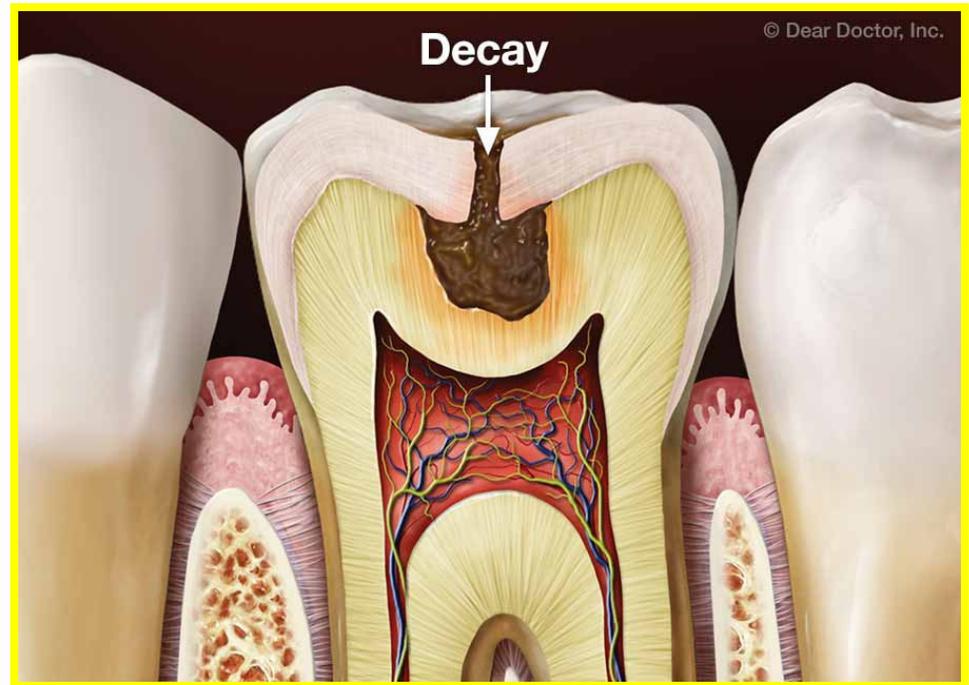
Next Example

# Scenario

Clinic Scenario: Patient is 20 year old female. Patient refuses local anesthetic. Provider completes restoration on #30. Patient returns six months later complaining of sensitivity.

Radiograph is taken.

Decay was not completely removed during first restoration.





# Adverse Event Reporting Process

Is this an  
Adverse Event?

?

Was there physical  
harm?

NO

Why?

Patient already had decay, the provider did not cause the decay. The lack of complete removal is a poor quality of care issue.



# Questions

# Adverse Event Reporting Process



Pain

Pain can be expected; if the pain is slight, manageable or temporary, then **no harm** has occurred. **No Adverse Event**

# Pain Scale

Scale of 1-10

- 1-3 = Slight pain = No Harm  
( expected or considered commonly occurring within the standard of care)
- 4-6 = Moderate pain = E1
- 7-10 = Severe pain = E2



# Pain

- In the absence of a pain scale, if the pain is described as
- “Can’t sleep, Killing me, throbbing, stabbing, jabbing, pounding, pulsing it is an AE =E2
- If the patient goes in for an emergency dental visit for pain it is an AE = E2
- If a representative calls with the complaint and requests and Rx for pain management, it is an AE = E2





# Questions



Specific  
Questions  
Submitted  
to OHA

# Specific Questions Submitted

Question: There is minimal to moderate damage to adjacent teeth while removing decay. What should this be classified as?

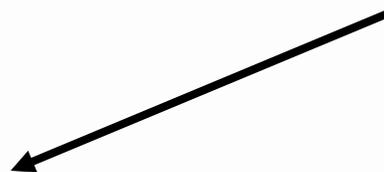
First questions is always...



**Was there physical harm?**

YES

Then we determine the severity of the AE using the AE system



# Specific Questions Submitted

Question: There is minimal to moderate damage to adjacent teeth while removing decay. What should this be classified as?

Review the clinical scenario

If the tooth can be minimally smoothed such that the contact is favorable and treated with fluoride until it remineralizes, then it's E-2. The harm was moderate/severe enough that it requires an intervention to compensate.

If adjacent tooth severely damaged, definitely requires a restoration, this severity of the AE will be either G1 or G2, depending on degree of damage, etc.

# Specific Questions Submitted

Question: There is soft tissue trauma from removing supragingival calculus. What should this be classified as?

First questions is always...



**Was there physical harm?**

Maybe

Review clinic scenario to determine



# Specific Questions Submitted

Question: There is soft tissue trauma from removing supragingival calculus. What should this be classified as?

Review the clinical scenario

It is within the normal course of treatment to have bleeding, irritation, etc. when scaling. If a provider has incorrectly adapted the scaler or curette to the tooth, trauma beyond the normal expected course of treatment would be considered an E1, temporary mild harm.

If a papilla is lopped off and then it's "G" as the result would be flattened architecture.

# Specific Questions Submitted

Question: There is a small cut of tongue during prepping of tooth structure. What should this be classified as?

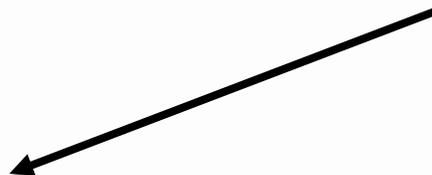
First questions is always...



**Was there physical harm?**

Yes

Review clinic scenario to determine AE severity



# Specific Questions Submitted

Question: There is a small cut of tongue during prepping of tooth structure. What should this be classified as?

Review the clinical scenario

It is within the normal course of treatment to have bleeding, irritation, etc. when completing restorative procedures around the tooth. It is not part of the normal expected course of treatment to have a cut on the tongue. A cut on a tongue would be considered an E1, temporary mild harm.

# Specific Questions Submitted

Question: There is a soft tissue trauma during polishing of restoration?  
What should this be classified as?

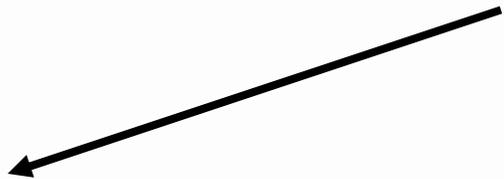
First questions is  
always...



**Was there physical harm?**

Review clinic  
scenario to  
determine AE  
severity

Maybe



# Specific Questions Submitted

Question: There is a soft tissue trauma during polishing of restoration?  
What should this be classified as?

Review the clinical scenario

It is within the normal course of treatment to have bleeding, etc. when polishing a restoration. If tissues are frail, inflamed, etc. bleeding is common during the normal course of treatment. It depends on the clinical scenario – has a section of soft tissue been removed? If it is beyond the normal expected course of treatment then it would be considered an E1, temporary mild harm. Will tissue grow back? Is papilla removed? Then G1. Depends on scenario.

# Dental Pilot Projects Program: Technical Assistance in Adverse Event Reporting Requirements

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- Understand Adverse Event Reporting Requirements
  - Identify **when** to report AE and **where** to report



# Questions



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
Maternal Health Division, Oral Health Program

# OHA

## Technical Assistance



# Sources

- Kalenderian E, Walji M, Tavares A, Ramoni R. An adverse event trigger tool in dentistry: a new methodology for measuring harm in the dental office. Journal Of The American Dental Association (1939) [serial online]. July 2013;144(7):808-814. Available from: MEDLINE Complete, Ipswich, MA. Accessed July 26, 2017.
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- Annotated Event Reporting Bibliography Handout

Thank you!