



Support SB21-102: Continue Dental Access with ITR and SDF Treatments by Dental Hygienists

There are two innovative therapies to help stop the progression of cavities in teeth that dental hygienists in Colorado are authorized to provide – SDF (silver diamine fluoride) and ITR (interim therapeutic restorations). Data has shown these treatments to be effective at increasing access to care and improving patient outcomes, particularly among many traditionally underserved populations. SB 102 is a sunset review bill that would continue allowing dental hygienists to provide these treatments. The dental stakeholder community collectively asks your support for this bill.

About SDF

- SDF is a FDA-approved, cavity-fighting liquid that can be painted on teeth.
- It can reduce tooth sensitivity and stop small cavities from growing bigger.
- In some cases, SDF can stop cavities nearly permanently after a few applications.
- The treatment is **minimally invasive**. It requires much less time and cooperation than traditional cavity treatments.
- Dental hygienists have been authorized to administer SDF treatments since 2018.

About ITR

- ITR is a technique where a dental hygienist can use hand instruments to remove portions of a decayed tooth and cover the area with a glass ionomer sealant to prevent additional decay.
- ITR is also less invasive – used on small cavities that do not need anesthesia or drills to treat.
- ITR can stop a cavity in its tracks – sometimes even for a decade or more.
- Dental hygienists have been authorized to administer ITR treatments since 2015.

While the SDF and ITR procedures do not solve every dental need, they greatly expand care options and access for Coloradans, including among **historically underserved populations** who experience barriers to care. The treatments are **inexpensive** and cost effective. They can have particular benefit for young children (in avoiding need for treatment under anesthesia) and populations with limited mobility or access, like seniors, people with special needs and those living in rural communities. Dental hygienists often provide these treatments at community health centers and in community-based settings, offering more options for patient centered care. SDF and ITR procedures are done in coordination with a state-licensed dentist, providing a reliable pathway for any needed follow up care.

The Need for SB 102

Allowing dental hygienists to continue providing ITR and SDF treatments expands access to important dental care services for underserved patient populations, as dental hygienists are often at the forefront of delivering care in non-traditional settings like schools, nursing homes and local community sites. Continuing efforts to provide evidence-based, minimally invasive, preventive care that is patient centered to all corners of Colorado is a priority among Colorado's dental community.

Please support SB 102!

SB 102 Supporters

- Caring for Colorado Foundation
- Children's Hospital Colorado
- Colorado Children's Campaign
- Colorado Community Health Network
- Colorado Dental Association
- Colorado Dental Hygienists Association
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Delta Dental of Colorado
- Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation
- Healthier Colorado

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