# Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program

## Dental Referral Classification Guide

This guide is intended to be used by CHDP/EPSDT providers when referring children for dental services. Classifications are determined by the urgency of treatment needs.

### Class I: No Visible Dental Problems

- **No decalcification, caries, or gingivitis**
- Mandated annual routine dental referral (beginning no later than age 1 and recommended every 6 months)

### Class II: Beginning Dental Problems

- **White decalcification/initial decay, small carious lesions, or gingivitis**
- The patient is asymptomatic. Condition is not urgent, yet requires a dental referral “before progression occurs.”

### Class III: Urgent Dental Problems

- **Large carious lesions, abscess, extensive gingivitis, or pain**
- Urgent dental care is needed. If abscess is suspected ensure that child is seen within 24 hours. Condition can progress rapidly to an emergency.

### Note:

For severe medically handicapping malocclusion or craniofacial anomaly refer child to a dentist or California Children’s Services (CCS).

### Class IV: Emergent Dental Problems

- **Acute injury, oral infection, or other painful condition**
- Immediate dental referral. Emergency dental treatment is required within 24 hours.

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California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), CHDP Program Oral Health Subcommittee  Revised 6/4/18