

The American Dental Association's "Classification of Treatment Needs" is a useful tool when referring children for dental services. If a problem is detected or suspected, check code 5 in the "Problem Suspected" column of the PM 160, line 02 "Dental Assessment/Referral." Then, classify the condition in the "Comments/Problems" section using Class II, III or IV. A summary of the index follows:

Class I: No Visible Dental Problem

No problem visualized. Child has not seen a dentist in the last 12 months, and should be referred for routine care. Check box "Routine Referral--Dental" on the PM 160.

Class II: Mild Dental Problems

Small carious lesions or gingivitis, the patient is asymptomatic. The condition is not urgent, yet requires a dental referral. Write "02-Class II" in the "Comment/Problems" section of PM160.

Class III: Severe Dental Problems

Large carious lesions, chronic abscess, or extensive gingivitis, or a history of pain. The need for dental care is urgent. Refer for treatment as soon as possible. Write "02-Class III" in "Comments/Problems" section of PM160.

Class IV: Emergency Dental Treatment Required

Acute injury, oral infection, or other painful condition. An immediate dental referral is indicated. Write "02-Class IV" in the "Comments/Problems" section of PM160.

A Medi-Cal or California Children's Services (CCS) eligible child may also be referred to a dentist or orthodontist if there is a **severe** malocclusion.