

GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING DENTAL RADIOGRAPHS					
Patient category	Child		Adolescent	Adult	
	Primary dentition prior to eruption of First permanent tooth}	Transitional dentition (following eruption of first permanent tooth)	Permanent dentition (prior to eruption of third molars)	Dentulous	Edentulous
New patient All new patients to assess dental diseases and growth and development	Posterior bitewing examination proximal surfaces of primary teeth cannot be visualized or probe posterior bitewings or panoramic	Individualized radiographic examination consisting of periapical/occlusal views and examination and posterior bitewings.	Individualized radiographic examination consisting of bitewing and selected periapicals. A full mouth intraoral radiographic examination is appropriate when the patient presents with clinical evidence of generalized dental disease or a history of extensive treatment.		Full mouth intraoral radiograph examination or panoramic examination
Recall patient Clinical caries or high risk factors for caries	Posterior bitewing examination at 6-mo intervals or until no carious lesions are evident		Posterior bitewing examination 6- to 12-mo intervals or until no carious lesions are evident	Posterior factors bitewing examination at 12-18-mo intervals	Not applicable
No clinical caries and no high risk factors for caries	Posterior bitewing examination 12- to 14-mo intervals if proximal surfaces of primary teeth cannot visualized or probed	Posterior bitewing examination at 12- to 24-mo intervals	Posterior bitewing examination at 18- to 36-mo intervals	Posterior bitewing examination at 24- to 36-mo intervals	Not applicable
Periodontal disease or a history of periodontal treatment	Individualized radiographic examination consisting of selected periapical and or bitewing radiographs for areas where periodontal disease (other than nonspecific gingivitis) can be demonstrated clinically		Individualized radiographic examination consisting of selected periapical and bitewing radiographs for areas where periodontal disease (other than nonspecific gingivitis) can be demonstrated clinically.		Not applicable
Growth and development assessment;	Usually not indicated	Individualized radiographic examination consisting of a periapical occlusal or panoramic examination	Periapical or panoramic examination to assess developing third molars	Usually not indicated	Usually indicated