



CareOregon Dental

Caries Risk Assessment (CRA) Tool

This caries risk assessment tool applies to all ages and includes factors that can be easily observed or obtained during routine oral health exams/assessments. Some elements may be completed by any dental team member, while more specific clinical conditions will need to be determined by the dental provider.

Each risk category is color-coded to indicate whether the patient is low (blue), moderate (yellow), or high (orange) risk, given the conditions that apply for a given column. Dental provider clinical judgement may justify a change in a patient's identified risk level and thus modify risk due to other observations and factors not addressed in this tool.

The below tool is a modified version of the American Dental Association's assessment. It was created from extensive clinical dental leadership review of current evidence based CRA tools and discussion on best practices.

Caries risk component (all ages)	Low	Moderate	High
1. Current cavitated caries lesion(s)	No		Yes
2. Incipient lesion(s)	≥ 24 months	13-23 months	≤ 12 months
3. Restoration(s)	≥ 24 months	13-23 months	≤ 12 months
4. Special health care needs (Conditions that have potential to increase caries risk e.g., physical limitations affecting dexterity, SUD, Eating disorder, GERD, Pregnancy)	No	Yes	
5. Xerostomia	No	Yes	
6. Visible plaque	None/light	Moderate/heavy	
7. Cariogenic diet	No	Yes	
8. Fluoride exposure (Fluoridated water, supplements, toothpaste, gel, rinse, varnish)	Daily intake of fluoridated water or supplements OR 2+ topical modalities	<2 topical fluoride modalities	
Results*:	Low	Moderate	High

- » Only conditions in Low = **Low**
- » Only conditions in Low and/or Mod = **Mod**
- » Any conditions in High = **High**

**Clinical judgement of the provider may justify change in the patient's risk level (increase or decrease).*