

Hypomineralized and Severely Decayed First Permanent Molars

Some children have first permanent molars compromised early due to poorly developed enamel or severe decay. In many children, these teeth may be a source of pain or sensitivity to hot and cold foods and liquids. In others, these teeth may not be sensitive, but the decay can be visualized on X-rays.

These compromised molars are challenging to restore, especially for young children. Often, much of the tooth structure is lost to decay, and in many cases, the cavity extends to the pulp (tooth nerve). In these teeth, traditional fillings have a poor long-term prognosis. Therefore, we often recommend either extraction or restoration with a stainless steel crown (and possibly a pulpotomy (a partial nerve treatment)).

For permanent molars, MCP covers the cost of extractions but does not cover the cost of stainless steel crowns or pulpotomies. The cost of a stainless steel crown is ~\$310 per tooth, and the cost of a pulpotomy is ~\$290 per tooth.

The benefit of restoring these molars with stainless steel crowns (and possible pulpotomies) is that the patient can retain these teeth. However, the stainless steel crowns are temporary and need to be replaced with permanent crowns when the child has finished growing. Additionally, the teeth may require future root canal treatment. (Root canals on permanent molars will not be performed in the operating room. If a permanent molar requires a root canal, it will be extracted.)

The benefit of extracting these molars is that they will not require future treatment. If the extractions are performed when a child is 6 to 9 years old, there is a high probability the second permanent molars will erupt into the position of the missing first molars (see example on the other side). If the first permanent molars are extracted at a later age, orthodontic treatment will be required to move the second molars into an ideal position, or the first molars can be replaced with implants or bridges when the child has finished growing. This can be done at the family dentist's office.

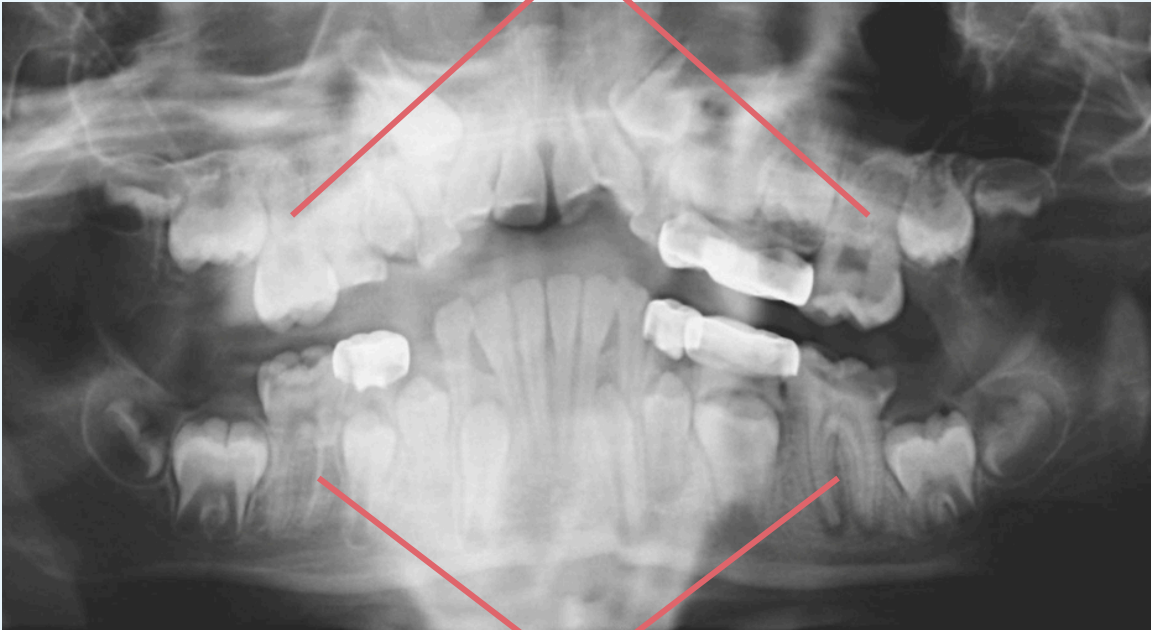
If you have private insurance and you are interested in services not covered by MCP, our office can submit a pre-determination to your primary insurance. It is your responsibility to understand your plan's coverage and annual maximum.

The total out-of-pocket cost for treatment not covered by MCP is due on the day of surgery. We do not offer payment plans.



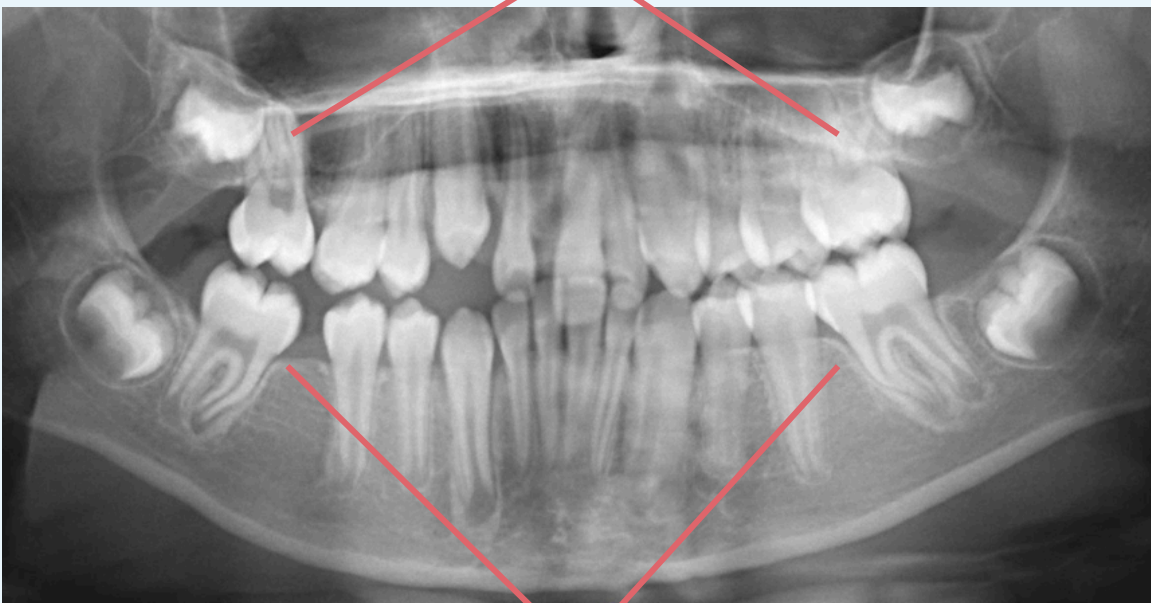
The first x-ray is a patient who had their first permanent molars extracted at age 9. The second x-ray is the same patient at age 12?

Compromised first permanent molars



Compromised first permanent molars

Substituted second permanent molars



Substituted second permanent molars