

DENTAL EXAMINATION PROTOCOLS**1. Equipment**

dental mirror
2"x2" sterile gauze

2. Order of Examination

Although the teleform has missing teeth as the first examination item, denture retention, stability and residual ridge resorption will be assessed before missing teeth. The reason for this is to reduce the number of times that a participant has to remove their full and/or partial dentures.

3. Denture Assessment

The denture assessment is only completed on participants with a complete denture or a *distal extension* removable denture. Removable dentures without a distal extension are not evaluated.

3.1 Stability

If a denture has been removed, replace it. Stability is defined as the ability of the denture to withstand forces of dislodgement in a horizontal direction and is usually thought of as the relationship of the denture base to the underlying bone. For complete dentures, unilateral alternating force is first applied to the first molar occlusal surface areas with the index fingers. Second the denture is manually moved laterally. Movement should be directly lateral and not rotational or torquing. If either force moves the prosthesis more than 2 mm in one direction, the prosthesis lacks stability.

For distal extension partial dentures, apply unilateral and bilateral force to the denture base or to the stress bearing areas. If rotation or lifting of rests and/or indirect retainers of 1 mm or more or movement equivalent to the diameter of a periodontal probe is detected, then the prosthesis lacks stability.

3.2 Retention

Retention of a removable prosthesis is defined as the ability of the prosthesis to withstand forces of dislodgment in a vertical direction and depends on the relationship of the denture base to the soft tissue. With the denture in place, have the participant open their mouth moderately wide. If the denture dislodges, it is non-retentive.

3.3 Residual Ridge Morphology

Remove the participant's denture and evaluate the ridge in the area of the first and second molar. Score the ridge according to the following criteria:

- None/Minimal: Clinical status indicative of minimal to no resorption of the alveolar bone.
- Moderate: A moderate amount of alveolar ridge resorption – knife-edged bone.
- Severe: Severe alveolar ridge resorption likely into basal bone.

4. Missing Teeth

Before completing the missing teeth section of the form, ask the study participant to remove any partial and/or complete dentures and be sure to always follow the appropriate infection control guidelines.

Identify which teeth are missing and record on the dental exam form. If teeth have drifted, attempt to determine which teeth have been removed.

IMPORTANT: Implants are considered to be missing teeth. Third molars are not evaluated in any part of the oral assessment – even if they have drifted into the second molar position.