

Medical Campus
635 Albany Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

March 2025

Dear Incoming DMD Student:

Congratulations on your acceptance to Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine (GSDM)!

In preparation for your pre-clinical Endodontic course (taken in your second year), you are required to collect extracted teeth prior to the start of your program. The extracted teeth are required for you to learn and practice Endodontic procedures (root canals) for this course to prepare for your clinical experience.

Because of the difficulty in finding suitable teeth, **you should start looking now and collect as many as possible**. You should contact any dentist you can (oral surgeons, periodontists, local dentist, etc.) and ask them to save teeth for you. Try to obtain as many teeth as possible as soon as possible as it is easy to overlook and the course begins much more quickly than anticipated.

It is difficult to say exactly how many of each tooth type are needed, but many students inevitably have to reach out to offices for more teeth because they did not collect enough. Too many is much better than not enough. Your 1st year APEX site may be an additional source, but do not rely completely on this rotation.

The following extracted teeth with intact, fully formed root(s) are required for the preclinical course:

- Maxillary anteriors (single root)
- premolars (one or two roots)
- first or second molars (not fused roots)

In addition, save any extra teeth, which may have broken roots but intact crown structure for access cavities (at least 10+).

Protocol for Disinfecting and Preserving the Extracted Teeth

***CDC recommended methods to disinfect the extracted teeth:**

1. Autoclave for 40 minutes if there is no amalgam restoration on the tooth (do not autoclave amalgam due to possible mercury vaporization), OR
2. Immerse in 10% formalin solution for 2 weeks

***Recommended method for long-term storage after disinfection (prevents dehydration):**

1. Kept in bleach diluted 1:10 with tap water after cleansed of visible blood and gross debris or
2. Keep the teeth in a mixture of the following solution: 2 parts of bleach + 3 parts of glycerin (from CVS or Walgreens) + 5 parts of water

Please go to [Best Practices for Handling Extracted Teeth](#) from the US Center for Disease Control for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at (617) 358-3369.

Sincerely,

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