

# When a Child's Tooth Pain Signals the Need for a Pulpotomy

*September 09, 2026*

September 09, 2026 -

Marshfield Pediatric Dentistry treats one of the more common reasons parents bring a young child in outside of a routine cleaning: a cavity that has advanced far enough to reach the nerve of a tooth. When that happens in a primary molar, the practice offers pulpotomies, a procedure aimed at removing the infected portion of a tooth's pulp while leaving the healthy portion in place, rather than pulling the tooth outright.

The pulp sits beneath the enamel and dentin, in the space holding a tooth's blood vessels, connective tissue, and nerve endings. Cavities that go untreated eventually work their way past those outer layers and into that space, which is usually when a child starts complaining about pain that lingers, whether or not anything is touching the tooth. At that stage, extraction is not the only option. In a primary tooth that still has years of use ahead of it, keeping the tooth in place matters for reasons beyond comfort, since pulling it too early can crowd the permanent teeth still developing underneath.

Pulpotomy gets confused with root canal treatment fairly often, but the two are not interchangeable. A root canal removes the pulp throughout the crown and root of a tooth. A pulpotomy removes only the infected portion near the crown while leaving healthy pulp tissue in the root intact, a distinction that matters in primary teeth, where preserving some living pulp supports the tooth until it is naturally lost. At Marshfield Pediatric Dentistry, the procedure follows a fairly consistent sequence: an exam and X-rays to gauge how far decay has spread, local anesthetic to numb the area, isolation of the tooth to keep the site dry, removal of the infected pulp, and a filling material placed over the remaining healthy pulp before the tooth is restored to its original shape. Recovery mostly involves some tenderness for a day or two and following after-care instructions rather than anything more involved.

Deciding whether a child needs pulpotomies in Marshfield, MA rather than a filling or an extraction usually comes down to how far the decay has spread, not how bad a tooth looks on the surface. Visible decay paired with a child who keeps mentioning tooth pain is generally worth having examined soon, since decay tends to spread from one tooth to the next, and a cavity left alone long enough can turn a straightforward filling into a more involved procedure. Coverage for the procedure varies by insurance plan and provider, and parents are

generally advised to check with their own coverage rather than assume what is or is not included.

Dr. Julie Hantson, the pediatric dentist who performs the procedure at the practice, built her approach to these appointments around keeping a child calm enough to get through the visit without dreading the next one. That shows up in how the office handles pulpotomies in Marshfield, MA generally, with an emphasis on explaining each step in terms a child can follow and pacing the appointment around what the child can handle, rather than rushing straight through the procedure.

Parents weighing whether a child's tooth pain warrants an evaluation, or looking into pulpotomies in Marshfield, MA more generally, can find additional detail on the treatment process and what to expect by visiting [www.marshfieldpediatricdentistry.com](http://www.marshfieldpediatricdentistry.com).

Marshfield Pediatric Dentistry is a pediatric dental practice in Marshfield, Massachusetts, led by Dr. Julie Hantson. The practice provides preventive, restorative, and emergency dental care for children, including pulpotomies, sealants, fillings, space maintenance, and sedation dentistry.

###

For more information about Marshfield Pediatric Dentistry, contact the company here: [Marshfield Pediatric Dentistry\(781\) 205-1124marshfieldpediatricdentistry@gmail.com](mailto:Marshfield Pediatric Dentistry(781) 205-1124marshfieldpediatricdentistry@gmail.com)

### **Marshfield Pediatric Dentistry**

Website: <https://www.marshfieldpediatricdentistry.com/>

Email: [marshfieldpediatricdentistry@gmail.com](mailto:marshfieldpediatricdentistry@gmail.com)

Phone: (781) 205-1124