

# Patient Profiles



## Meet Tate

Tate is an eight-year-old boy living in a rural west Texas town with a population of 1,400. He lives with his grandparents and a younger sister. The closest dentist office is an hour and a half away. Tate's grandparents work multiple jobs to make ends meet, juggling their own declining health and caring for his little sister. They've managed to get Tate to a dentist only twice in his life.

Tate has been experiencing tooth pain so intense that he has stopped raising his hand in school and is falling behind. His concerned teacher called a conference with his grandparents, where they learned about Tate's tooth pain for the first time. Tate tells his grandparents and teacher that he is terrified of the scary sounds, needles, and drills at his dentist's office.

Tate's grandparents now feel guilty and face an impending pile of medical bills. They need to find a way to get Tate to the dentist once a week for the next month for treatment and calm an incredibly anxious young boy who is fearful of the sounds, needles, and drills he associates with the dentist.



## Meet Cameron

Cameron is a 37-year-old Black woman living in Boston. She is a management consultant who works 80-hour weeks, travels 48 weeks of the year, and is in the running for partner of her firm. Her busy schedule and high stress levels led her to abandon her diet and exercise routine, causing her to develop type 2 diabetes in her early 30s. Despite her doctor's instructions to visit her dentist regularly after she received her diabetes diagnosis, she hasn't been able to fit the appointments into her schedule. She is now at high risk for periodontal disease.

During a work trip to San Francisco, Cameron started noticing that the smell of her breath was worsening no matter how much she brushed or how much mouthwash she used. Mints didn't help either. Her bad breath made her self-conscious at her big client meetings that week, hurting her performance.

Upon her return to Boston, Cameron made an appointment with her dentist to find out that she has severe periodontal disease. She has been forced to reduce her travel time as she gets treated during the next couple of months. She'll miss big client meetings and sees her chances of being made partner dwindling.

