

Your Insurance and What You Should Know

Your dental insurance is an important benefit for you and your family's dental care. We understand that insurance can be confusing at times, so we want to give you some helpful information to allow you to better understand your insurance benefits.

An important thing to know is that the relationship of your insurance is between you and your dental insurance company. Our office files your insurance as a benefit to you, but we may not have all the answers to your dental insurance questions. We recommend that you contact your insurance company or HR department at work with any questions regarding your dental coverage.

The insurance information that we have on file will need to be updated by the policy holder whenever there is a change in the insurance policy or you have a new insurance. If we do not have your current up-to-date insurance, we will not be able to properly file your insurance. Not having this information will result in your insurance not receiving and paying the claim, and the patient being responsible for the entire portion of the services rendered.

Some dental plans have exclusions to as what type of treatment is covered or they may have a "waiting period." Your dental plan may not cover certain procedures, like sealants, but that does not mean that these treatments are unnecessary. If your insurance has a pre-existing condition clause, this means that your dental policy will not cover treatment because the condition existed before you enrolled in your current insurance plan. The best way to know if you have either of these is to contact your insurance provider or HR department.

Insurance plans usually have a yearly maximum dollar amount they allow for treatment in one year. It is best to know your insurance's yearly maximum by contacting your insurance company, continually tracking the amount you have used, and referring to your Explanation of Benefits from the insurance company.

Although we give you an estimate of what your insurance is expected to pay, this does not mean your insurance will pay that amount in full. If you have questions if insurance will cover a procedure, we will be happy to provide you with the ADA code to contact your insurance company regarding coverage of that procedure. The cost of the procedure is due at the time service is rendered. If you have maximized your insurance, the total cost will be your responsibility.

Is Zoom2 In-office Whitening the Right Choice for You?

Are you thinking about whitening your teeth to get the beautiful white smile you've always wanted? There are many different ways to whiten your teeth, from over-the-counter bleaching strips to our ZOOM! In-office whitening. Because over-the-counter products do not have the prescription strength that our in-office ZOOM! whitening does, you should understand that it may take longer to get the results you want.

ZOOM! is our in-office whitening system where we isolate your gums, exposing only the teeth, apply a gel directly onto the teeth and place a UV lamp that helps activate the whitening gel. When the gel is activated by this lamp, it allows the Hydrogen Peroxide to break down and enter into the enamel and dentin layers of the teeth. This process bleaches the colored substances that stain your teeth, such as coffee, tea, dark soda, tobacco, etc.

In addition to instant teeth whitening, we also make you take home trays for future touch-up sessions. Along with the trays you get a tube of whitening gel so you can do a session in 6 or 12 months at home. By following simple post care instructions, doing a touch-up session and, flossing and brushing daily, you'll be able to ensure that your teeth stay pearly white.

Many dentists consider whitening to be one of the safest cosmetic dental procedures. The ZOOM! Whitening is a safe treatment and must be done under a dentist's supervision.

Why Does My Tooth Need a Crown?

In a previous newsletter we informed you of our exciting new technology that allows us to deliver your crowns on the same day that they are prepared. This helps eliminate uncomfortable temporary crowns and cut the possibility of the tooth becoming sensitive.

There are several reasons we may recommend crowning a tooth. One of the most common reasons teeth need to be crowned is that they have had a filling in the past, usually an amalgam or silver filling. Once these teeth have an amalgam filling, the wear and tear these teeth have endured causes the teeth to begin to crack.

Hairline fractures and cracks in heavily used back teeth make them very susceptible to breaking. When a tooth breaks, it may be a small piece that fractures off or the tooth may break off below the gum line or even through the middle of the tooth. Crowning a tooth before it breaks allows us to prevent the tooth from fracturing and acts like a metal ring around a barrel, holding the tooth together and preventing it from flexing and breaking.

Another common reason teeth need to be crowned is due to decay which undermines the tooth structure. When a tooth has a large amount of decay, often once the decay is removed there is just not enough tooth left to support a large filling. Fillings are not as strong as crowns and can leave teeth vulnerable to cracking and breaking. Similar to teeth with cracks, teeth with large decay often need a crown in order to maintain the remaining tooth structure to prevent it from breaking and to replace the tooth structure missing due to decay.

These are the most common reasons why a tooth needs to be crowned. At your next dental appointment, our dentists and hygienists would be happy to visit with you about questions you may have to ask why you might need a crown.

