

Schuylkill Dental Medicine

Healthy Beautiful Smiles™

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www.schuylkilldental.com

WELCOME TO OUR OFFICE

Thank you for contacting our office concerning your dental care. We look forward to meeting you and establishing what we hope can become a warm and lasting relationship. Enclosed is a medical and dental history form, a short fee listing, and a copy of our office payment policy. Please complete the history form and bring it with you to your appointment. If you have dental insurance, please bring your insurance card and claim forms with you as well.

Our office maintains a philosophy of preventive dental care. We do not believe it is normal or natural for people to lose their teeth. Our goal is to do everything possible to help you maintain good oral health throughout your lifetime.

Our office provides a wide range of services:

- Diagnostic - clinical and x-ray examination, bacteriologic studies, pulp testing
- Preventive - education, oral hygiene instruction, prophylaxis (cleaning), topical fluoride application, sealants
- Restorative - amalgam and composite fillings, posterior composites (white fillings for back teeth), inlays, onlays, crowns (caps)
- Endodontic - root canal treatment for anterior and premolar teeth
- Prosthodontic - fixed bridgework (caps to replace missing teeth), partial and full dentures, implant dentistry, TMJ diagnosis and treatment
- Periodontic - non-surgical and surgical treatment for gingivitis and periodontitis (gum disease)
- Surgical - extractions and other oral surgical procedures
- Orthodontic - removable appliances for minor tooth guidance and movement, retainers
- Cosmetic - bleaching, bonding and veneering to improve appearance using composite and porcelain materials

We practice general dentistry. For cases requiring complex treatment, we work with and can provide referrals to competent specialists.

During the first appointment, we will review your history and discuss any questions you may have concerning your teeth, oral health, or appearance. We will perform a thorough examination of your teeth, gums, and other oral tissues. We will take x-rays to evaluate tooth development, to examine root and bone structure, and to look for any cavities, abnormalities, or other disease not apparent by clinical examination alone. Usually, we are able to discuss the results of the examination during the first appointment. However, if your dental needs are extensive, we may ask for additional records, and have you return for a separate consultation appointment. Following our discussion you will receive a treatment plan outlining the treatment to be performed, the number of appointments required, and an estimate of your out-of-pocket expense for each procedure.

New patients to our office who are 25 years old or younger generally have their teeth cleaned during their first appointment. Patients over 25 years old are asked to schedule a separate appointment for their cleaning. As part of the initial examination, we will evaluate your gums for health or disease, and schedule your cleaning or gum-care appointment accordingly.

FIRST APPOINTMENT
USUAL TREATMENT ACCORDING TO PATIENT AGE

ADULTS, AGE 25 AND OLDER

Initial Oral Exam
X-rays, Complete Series

ADULTS, AGE 13 TO 25

Initial Oral Exam
X-rays, Complete Series
Prophylaxis, Adult (cleaning)
Topical Fluoride Application

OTHER FEES

Periodic (6 month) Oral Exam
Emergency Oral Exam
Periodontal Cleaning

CHILDREN, AGE 6 TO 12

Initial Oral Exam
X-rays, Bitewing
Prophylaxis, Child (cleaning)
Topical Fluoride Application

CHILDREN, UNDER 6 YEARS OLD

Initial Oral Exam
Prophylaxis, Child (cleaning)
Topical Fluoride Application

Children less than 4 years old generally receive an exam only

An initial examination is comprehensive. Adults should allow 60-75 minutes for this appointment; children should allow 45-60 minutes. Please contact your previous dental office to request that recent x-rays be forwarded to our office in advance of your scheduled appointment. If current and diagnostically acceptable x-rays are not available at your initial visit, x-rays will be taken in our office as outlined above.

Patients under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent or close relative to this first appointment. If an adult is not present, we will be unable to provide treatment for your child.

A topical fluoride application (TFA) is given in our office in conjunction with both child and adult prophylaxis (cleanings). If you are unfamiliar with this procedure, our hygienist will explain the rationale for TFA. Almost all insurance plans cover TFAs for children; most do not cover TFAs for adults.

PAYMENT POLICY

Sound financial arrangements enable us to deliver more needed dental care to our patients, and help us to keep our fees in line with national averages while providing a high level of quality service. Our office operates on a fee-for-service basis. Payment is due and payable in full on the day that treatment is rendered. We accept payment by cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, Novus and CareCredit. Other payment arrangements can sometimes be made, but we request that you discuss this with our office manager before treatment begins. Interest or late payment fees are charged on all overdue accounts, and cases of non-payment are referred for collection.

INSURANCE

If you have dental insurance, our office will complete insurance forms and accept assignment of benefits from your insurance carrier. You will be responsible for any deductibles, co-payments, or other amounts not covered by your policy. We expect you to pay your portion of the bill on the day services are rendered. If necessary, benefits will be pre-determined with your insurance carrier prior to starting treatment. We participate with United Concordia, Delta Dental, MetLife, and a number of other insurance carriers. Feel free to call our office and ask if we participate or accept assignment of benefits for your particular plan.

We hope this information helps to acquaint you with our office. If we can answer any additional questions prior to your appointment, please give us a call. We are also available through our web site at www.schuykilldental.com.