

## What To Expect On Your Initial Visit

In order to provide you with individualized care appropriate for you we feel it is important to spend time getting to know you and getting to understand what it is you want for your dental health. During your initial visit there will be plenty of time for you to ask whatever questions you may have and plenty of time for you to tell us anything you feel would help us better help you with your dental health. We will perform a comprehensive evaluation of your teeth and present dentistry, your gums and the bone that hold your teeth, the muscles that move your jaws, your jaw joints, and how everything all fits together. We may take various digital photographs of you and your teeth. We may ask your permission to take various types of digital x-rays. We may also ask your permission to make study models of your teeth and records of how they fit together. We may also ask permission to contact your previous dentist(s) and your physician to ask them for x-rays and other relevant records.

The American Dental Association and current standard of care recommends that each dental patient have a full set of dental radiographs (which in our office consists of eighteen individual digital x-rays) taken every three to five years depending on each patient's dental status. Four of these eighteen digital radiographs are your check-up digital x-rays which are taken on subsequent years. These check-up digital x-rays (or "bitewings" as we refer to them) show cavities between your back teeth. The other x-rays on a full set of radiographs show, but are not limited to: some signs of periodontal disease, some infections unable to be seen on bitewings, some signs of occlusal disease (clenching, grinding, etc.) and other normal and abnormal dental conditions.

We require a new patient to have a current full set of radiographs at their initial appointment to properly diagnose your current dental status. If one is on record at another office we are happy to request it. If not, one is recommended to have taken at your first dental visit with us. Even if you have no dental disease (cavities, periodontal disease, or other dental infections) we use this as a baseline of your dental health. If you do have a current full set of radiographs and they are more than one year old, but less than three to five years and do not have a current set of digital check-up (or bitewing) radiographs, we will recommend you to have these taken at your first visit with us.

***For your initial comprehensive evaluation visit you can expect to be in our office for approximately 1½ hours.***