

Dental Examination

The dental examination is used to determine the overall health of your mouth. As well as looking in your mouth the dentist will ask you some questions. These may include:

- Why you have come for a dental examination?
- Any problems you have noticed such as pain or sensitivity.
- Are you happy with the appearance of your teeth?
- Your general health and any medicines you might be taking.
- Your diet.
- How you clean your teeth and gums.
- Smoking and drinking habits.

You may expect the dentist to:

- Look at your face and neck to see that they are healthy.
- Feel under your jaw and over your jaw joints.
- Look inside your mouth, at your tongue, your cheeks and lips, the roof of your mouth and back of your throat.
- Look at your teeth and gums to see whether they are healthy or whether there are any signs of decay, damage or gum disease.
- Compare your mouth now with how it appeared at your last dental examination.
- Decide more information is needed from x-rays, photographs or plaster models of how your teeth bite together.
- Tell you about any treatment you need, explain the choices available and provide you with a written treatment plan outlining any associated costs.

Regular examinations mean that your dentist can identify any problems and correct them early before the treatment becomes more complicated. A thorough examination enables the dentist to help you look after your mouth and prevent future problems.

The dentist will advise on how often you should attend for a dental examination according to your particular circumstances.

