

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Payment is due in full at the time services are rendered. This policy is effective on your first visit unless you have dental insurance and your benefits can be verified by our staff prior to or by the time services are rendered. We will collect your initial estimated portion and then bill your insurance company for the treatment. You will be responsible for any outstanding balance following insurance reimbursement. Previously approved financial arrangements can be made for subsequent visits depending on the circumstances.

Our office is happy to cooperate with individuals who are covered by dental insurance. We only ask that you read your policy carefully to be sure that you are fully aware of any restrictions that may apply to the services provided. Dental insurance is a contract between the patient and the insurance company for reimbursing the cost of dental services. It is not a contract between the dentist and the insurance company.

The fees we charge for services rendered to those who are insured are Usual, Customary, and Reasonable (UCR) for our area. Your policy may base its allowances on a fixed fee schedule, which may or may not coincide with the usual, customary, and reasonable fee structure for our area. You should be aware that different insurance companies vary greatly in the types of coverage they make available. Some insurance companies pay a percentage of the dental fee, for example, 40%, 80% or 90%. Some will have you pay a deductible of \$50 to \$100, and then they will cover a percentage of the remainder of your dental bill up to a maximum limitation. Others reimburse according to a "Table of Allowances" which is substantially below the usual and customary fee schedule found in private practice. Some companies pay claims promptly, and others delay payment for many months.

The following policies will help streamline the procedures and therefore reduce administrative costs:

1. Routine maintenance cleaning appointments are to be paid in full at the time of your visit. Patients whose insurance coverage is verified will be required to pay only their estimated portion at the time of their appointment.
2. We will accept the assignment of benefits from the insurance companies for the insured portion for the first 90 days. However, it is very costly to carry amounts on accounts receivables. Therefore, interest will be automatically charged on accounts aged over 90 days at the rate of 18% APR with the exception of orthodontics.
3. To full utilize your yearly insurance benefits, please plan ahead. We encourage you to make your appointments early enough in the year to allow sufficient time to complete your treatment. Do not get caught up in the year-end holiday rush.

4. If a check is returned for any reason, there will be a service charge of \$35. to cover administrative costs levied to us by the bank.

We provide nitrous oxide sedation upon request. There is a fee for this procedure. For the anxious patient, this analgesia is a welcomed comfort. Please be sure to schedule this request when making your appointments to insure that you will be properly accommodated.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your trust and confidence through your referrals. We truly appreciate the privilege of serving you.

Sincerely,

Edison C. Louie, D.D.S., Inc.