

Some things you should know about dental benefits.

At Simply Smile, we believe that you deserve the best care. That's why we always present you with the best dental solution possible to treat your personal situation. Each year we provide outstanding dental care to hundreds of folks. Some have dental benefits but most don't. If you have dental benefits, congratulations! You are very fortunate. If you don't we have numerous ways to make any type of dental care affordable for you. Here are some important things you should know if you do have dental benefits...

Your dental benefits are based upon a contract made between your employer and an employee benefits company. **If you have any questions regarding your dental benefits please contact your employer or the benefits carrier directly.**

Dental benefits differ greatly from medical benefits. In 1959, most dental benefit plans had a yearly maximum cap of \$1,000. You'll be surprised to know today that the average dental benefit plan has a yearly maximum cap of \$1,000. **There has been no significant increase in the yearly maximum cap in nearly 50 years!** However, there have been significant increases in your premiums.

Dental benefit plans will never pay for completion of your dental care. It has always been meant to assist you.

Many people receive notification from their insurance company that dental fees are "above usual and customary." A dental benefits company determines their reimbursement level by surveying a geographical area, calculating the average fee, then determines that 80% of the average fee is customary. Included in this survey are discount dental clinics and managed care facilities, which have severely reduced dental fees that bring down the average. **Any doctor in private practice will have fees that dental benefit companies define as "higher than usual and customary."**

Many dental benefit plans tell their participants that they will be covered "up to 80% or 100%" but do not clearly specify the plan fee schedule allowance, annual maximum or limitations. It is more realistic to expect dental benefit plans to cover between 25% to 40% of dental services. **Remember that the amount a plan reimburses is determined by how much your employer has paid for your dental benefit plan.** You will get back only what your employer has put in, less the insurance company's profit margin.

Dental benefit companies do NOT cover many routine and newer dental services.

Our team members will gladly assist you in filling out the necessary forms to maximize your dental benefits and discuss your financial options. Excellent dental care is available with or without dental benefits. We hope you will choose the best that dentistry has to offer.

Signature of Patient, Parent or Guardian

Date

Here at Simply Smile, our Office Policy regarding financing is as follows: As a condition of the treatment performed by the Providers of the office; financial arrangements must be made in advance for the full cost of proposed treatment. The practices' vitality depends upon payment for services as rendered and it is the responsibility of the patient/patient parent-guardian to satisfy the costs incurred in dental care. Financial arrangements on the part of each individual must be determined prior treatment completion.

All emergency dental services, or any dental services performed without previous financial arrangements, must be paid for at the time services are rendered. Additionally, a discount can be extended; at the management's discretion; for payments in full with cash or money order. (Inquire for more details)

Individuals who carry dental insurance understand that all dental services furnished are charged directly to the patient and that said patient is personally responsible for payment of all dental services provided, regardless of dental insurance reimbursement. As a customer courtesy, this office will help prepare and submit patients' insurance forms as well as assist in making collections from insurance companies. We will credit any such collections to the appropriate account. However, this dental office cannot render services on the assumption that our charges will be paid in part or in full by an insurance company. (Please understand that the amount to be paid by your particular policy is pre-determined and agreed to by your employer and the insurance company. If you have any questions about the amount the plan will pay or the treatments your plan will cover, you should refer these questions to your employer.) Additionally, there may be a deductible, a co-insurance factor, and a yearly maximum to be considered. Most policies cover what they consider a "usual and customary fee." However, the insurance company sets these fees, and they are not always the same as the fees that may be charged in this or any office. All these factors may combine to reduce the benefits you will ultimately receive. We will do our best to see that you receive your full benefits within the structure of your particular dental plan.

A service charge of 18% per month on any unpaid balance will be charged on all accounts exceeding 60 days from date of service, unless previously written financial arrangements are agreed upon and satisfied. We offer outside financing through Care Credit, and if approved, can extend payments over a course of 12 months with no interest or service charges.

I understand that the fee estimate listed for any proposed dental care can only be extended for a period of six months from the date of diagnosis and/or examination.

I further acknowledge that the proposed treatment plan can shift and/or change from the diagnosed treatment plan once treatment is begun due to unforeseen circumstances beyond Dr. Bacon's control.

In consideration for the professional services rendered to me by the Doctor; at the providers recommendation or at my own request; I agree to pay, therefore, the reasonable value of said services to said Doctor, or his assignee, at the time said services are rendered, or within five (5) days of billing if credit shall be extended.

I further agree that the reasonable value of said services shall be as billed unless objected to; by me, in writing, within the time allotted for payment thereof.

I further agree that a waiver of any breach of any time or condition here under shall not constitute a waiver of any further term or condition and I further agree to pay all costs and reasonable attorney fees if suit be instituted hereunder.

I also agree, if account should be sent over to a collection agency, to pay all costs incurred by the collection agency to pay off account.

I grant my permission to Dr. Bacon and/or Dr. Bacon's financial coordinator, to telephone me at home or at my place of business to discuss matters related to this form.

I have read the above conditions of treatment and payment and agree to their content.

Signature of Patient, Parent or Guardian

Date

Notice of Privacy Practices



This notice describes how health information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully. The privacy of your health information is important to us.

OUR LEGAL DUTY

We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your health information. We are also required to give you this Notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this Notice while it is in effect. This Notice takes effect 12/03/2007, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our Notice effective for all health information that we maintain, including health information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and make the new Notice available upon request. You may request a copy of our Notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, or for additional copies of this Notice, please contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. For example:

Treatment: We may use or disclose your health information to a physician or other healthcare provider providing treatment to you.

Payment: We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide to you.

Healthcare Operations: We may use and disclose your health information in connection with our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.

Your Authorization: In addition to our use of your health information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations, you may give us written authorization to use your health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us a written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this Notice.

To Your Family and Friends: We must disclose your health information to you, as described in the Patient Rights section of this Notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member, friend or other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment for your healthcare, but only if you agree that we may do so.

Persons Involved In Care: We may use or disclose health information to notify, or assist in the notification of (including identifying or locating) a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care, of your location, your general condition, or death. If you are present, then prior to use or disclosure of your health information, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures. In the event of your incapacity or emergency circumstances, we will disclose health information based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only health information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement in your healthcare. We will also use our professional judgment and our experience with common practice to make reasonable inferences of your best interest in allowing a person to pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, x-rays, or other similar forms of health information.

Marketing Health-Related Services: We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your written authorization.

Required by Law: We may use or disclose your health information when we are required to do so by law.

Abuse or Neglect: We may disclose your health information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence or the possible victim of other crimes. We may disclose your health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

National Security: We may disclose to military authorities the health information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorized federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution or law enforcement official having lawful custody of protected health information of inmate or patient under certain circumstances.

Appointment Reminders: We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders (such as voicemail messages, postcards, or letters).

For Patient Communication Purposes and/or phoned-in prescriptions: Intraoral photography, "no cavity club" for children

PATIENT RIGHTS

Access: You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format you request unless we cannot practicably do so. (You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies and team time. You may also request access by sending us a letter to the address at the end of this Notice. If you request copies, we will charge you \$2.00 for each page, \$15.00 per hour for team time to locate and copy your health information, and postage if you want the copies mailed to you. If you request an alternative format, we will charge a cost-based fee for providing your health information in that format. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your health information for a fee. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.)

Disclosure Accounting: You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your health information for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities, for the last 6 years, but not before April 14, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

Restriction: You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency).

Alternative Communication: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. (You must make your request in writing.) Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your health information. (Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended.) We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

Electronic Notice: If you receive this Notice on our Web site or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are entitled to receive this Notice in written form.

QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your health information or in response to a request you made to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your health information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon request.

Signature of Patient, Parent or Guardian

Date