

Your Dental Health ... News and Info



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Amanda Smith



Amanda Smith has been with Center for Premier Dentistry as a dental assistant for almost two years. She originally did her internship for dental assisting with our office. We were fortunate that Amanda decided to stay with us when she completed her training. She works chairside with Dr. Swartz to help in any restorative treatment on patients.

A COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

In the medical and dental fields, all new patients must undergo an initial exam, which is usually called a comprehensive exam. This exam should be viewed as an interview or a “getting to know you” period. In dentistry, there is nothing more important than forming a strong bond between the patient and the dental office team. This holds equally true for patients already in a maintenance program or patients that are undergoing comprehensive or full mouth rehabilitation. The new patient exam or comprehensive exam gives the opportunity to establish this trust factor.

During a “New Patient Experience” patients are given a tour of the office and introduced to members of the dental team. This process will again help establish a bond by enabling the patient to become more familiar with the people that will help with their dental needs. If you have any particular interests or amenities that will help make your future dental visits more comfortable, these can be addressed. Then you will be introduced to the doctor for the start of the comprehensive exam.

The comprehensive exam will include a series of digital photos, a full mouth series of digital x-rays, intra-oral photos (pictures taken in the mouth) and a dental questionnaire. These will all be used to help establish a base line for you as a patient. In the future, these can be accessed and updated as your treatment progresses. Since this is a baseline, it gives the patient the ability for a comparison of “before and after” treatment in our office. The doctor will review medical history, perform an extra-oral exam focusing on head/neck symmetry and range of motion in the jaw joint. He will then review the full mouth series of x-rays, chart all existing dental work and/or missing teeth.

A periodontal exam will then help determine the overall condition of the gums. We will discuss any possible periodontal disease, our approach to the treatment of the disease and how we will then help you with the maintenance of the disease. Next a series of intra-oral photos will be taken and printed for you. Any recommendations for treatment will be discussed with you by means of these photos. A printed treatment plan with fees will be given to you for all procedures that have been recommended. At this time, you will be given the opportunity to ask questions or express your concerns.

It is our standard of care that every 3-5 years, patients go through the comprehensive exam process. This will allow us to update individual needs or concerns and make the proper adjustments or modifications. This will assure that your dental record is thorough and as up to date as possible.

If you are interested in setting up a new patient exam or have any questions for the doctors or team members, please feel free to contact us. We are always happy to assist you.