

Dr. Bradley Goldsamt, DDS

Office Policies and Guidelines

Patient Compliance:

General dental care and checkups are important during your orthodontic treatment. It is important that all our patients visit their general dentist every six (6) months during treatment.

Please brush your teeth before you come to your appointments. We have toothbrushes in our office that are pre-pasted in case you are unable to brush before we see you. You can ask any one of our receptionists.

Successful treatment is dependent on many factors including proper oral hygiene and taking care of appliances to avoid breakage. In addition to impeding the overall ideal result and extending treatment time, poor compliance can lead to permanent damage of the dentition and surrounding tissue.

Treatment time:

Your initial treatment time is an estimate and is not an exact prediction. Based on your individual treatment, your orthodontic adjustments will be scheduled every 3-7 weeks. It is difficult to guess how fast teeth will move because everyone's teeth and bone biology is different. Missed or cancelled appointment can delay your treatment time. Please allow Dr. G the time to finish your teeth as perfect as possible.

Appointments:

Most people seeking orthodontic treatment have other important obligations during the day usually involving work or school. When active orthodontic treatment begins, each patient is seen every 3-7 weeks depending on your individual treatment. Some of these appointments will conflict with work and school. We do our very best to accommodate as many patients as possible after work or school. It is impossible to schedule them all outside of normal work/ school and sports. These policies are designed to prevent over scheduling and unnecessary wait time for you. We know how valuable and limited your time is! In order to treat all patients in a timely fashion, we have arranged our office hours to broaden available appointment times and have developed the following guidelines.

☺: We want to see you on time for each appointment and have adequate time to perform the necessary procedures scheduled for that day. Longer appointments such as the "Records"- (diagnostic visit); "Banding"- (putting braces on); "Debanding"- (taking braces off) and impressions for new appliances and/or retainers, will be scheduled during the school/work day which allows us to accommodate as many families as possible for after school/work appointments. It is impossible to avoid missing any school. We will do our best to work with your schedule.

☺: Missed or late appointments will often lead to extended treatment time and/or compromised results. Our intention is to value your time as well as ours. Arriving late can pose a number of problems. In fairness to others, we may have to reschedule unless there is an unexpected opening. Please call to let us know as soon as possible if you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment. Please do your best to arrive on time.

☺: Broken appointments or cancellations will be rescheduled based on availability. For this reason, if you should miss or need to reschedule an appointment, you may not be able to get your desired time unless we have an opening due to someone else rescheduling. Waiting for an after school appointment can delay results. We may be able to see you sooner and schedule you during school hours when we do not normally see as many patients. **This will help to avoid extending your treatment time.**

☺: **Loose wires or broken brackets are not generally considered emergencies and can be repaired at the next regularly scheduled appointment.** Most times it is not necessary to come in to the office for immediate repair. A broken bracket can occur for several reasons including eating foods that are very hard such as bagels, pizza crust and apples. Special caution should be used with braces when eating these foods. Bagels should be soft and apples should be sliced. This does not usually require an “emergency” office visit. **If there is major pain or discomfort, please call us and we will see the patient as soon as possible and take care of the emergency. No need to panic as these things do occasionally happen.**

☺: We are often asked if we can *squeeze* someone in but this does not work because an unscheduled patient that is squeezed in to the schedule will cause a traffic jam and results in someone else waiting 15-30 minutes for his scheduled appointment.

☺: In order to accommodate as many patients as possible, we reserve late afternoon/ evening appointments for routine adjustments and appliance checks. **Longer appointments and emergency appointment are scheduled during work or school hours when more time may be spent with the patient.**

☺ **If you find that you cannot keep an appointment, please call our office at least 24 hours before so we can offer the appointment to someone else in that time slot. If you had an appointment after school, it is unlikely that you can reschedule soon as these fill up weeks in advance.**

☺ **Please realize that missed appointments and numerous appointment changes can extend treatment time and may result in damage to the teeth and gums due to lack of supervision of the braces and associated tooth movement.**