

## New Patient Welcome and Information Letter

**Our Purpose:** Dr. Dixon believes that people go to a dentist because they want to keep their teeth healthy and attractive for their entire life. His promise to you is to help you accomplish this goal. Upon your initial comprehensive evaluation, he will inform you of your dental needs and the possible options you have to achieve your ideal healthy smile. He welcomes your input and cares about your desires.

**About Dr. Dixon:** Dr. Mel was born in Washington D.C. while his father, Dr. Dixon Sr., attended dental school. Upon graduation the family moved back to Tucson where he grew up. He then received his Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree from Howard University College of Dentistry. When he returned to Tucson he worked with his father until Dr. Dixon Sr. retired in 1997. Dr. Mel is consistently attending continuing education classes to achieve and even higher level of knowledge. He is an active member of the Southern Arizona Dental Society, American Dental Association, Arizona Dental Association, and Tucson Cosmetic Dental Study Club.

**Your Health History:** Please help us help you by thoughtfully and completely filling in your health history. This information is vital to us in determining appropriate treatment. Please inform the office prior to your first visit of allergies, surgeries, or other conditions which may affect your treatment.

**Initial Evaluation:** Your new patient exam will be thorough and comprehensive, unless we have scheduled you on an emergency basis, for which you will be scheduled for a limited exam. This is scheduled prior to the new patient exam to focus on any discomfort you may be experiencing. When you come in for your new patient exam you will be informed of your dental health needs as well as cosmetic options. Radiographs, or x-rays, are an important part of your new patient exam. We share your concern about exposure to unnecessary radiation and care will be taken upon your visit. Dr. Dixon has digital radiology which means we use the least amount of radiation in all radiology fields. We are responsible to you about all your dental health needs. Our exams **consist of looking for the following:**

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|----------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Abscesses   | 2. New Decay                                   | 3. Gum/Bone Disease       | 4. TMJ (Jaw Joint Disorder) |
| 5. Tumors      | 6. Oral Cancer                                 | 7. Medical History Review | 8. Cysts/Lesions            |
| 9. Sensitivity | 10. Orthodontics                               | 11. Fractures             | 12. Bite Problems           |
| 13. Cosmetics  | 14. Recurrent Decay (Decay Under Old Fillings) |                           |                             |

We will recommend a complete set of x-rays on all new patients to provide you with a thorough and comprehensive exam. These full mouth set of radiographs are requested every 3 to 5 years. Yearly we will recommend 2 on each side of your mouth. These x-rays show us the following:

- |                  |                    |   |                                     |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Decay         | 2. Fractures       | 3. Tumors                                       | 4. Overhangs (Ill Fitting Fillings) |
| 5. Abscesses     | 6. Root Tips       | 7. Bone Loss                                    | 8. Hard Deposits Beneath Gums       |
| 9. Cysts/Lesions | 10. Irregularities | 11. Impacted Teeth (Teeth Erupting Incorrectly) |                                     |

**Re-care Appointments:** We strongly believe that the greatest degree of oral health can be achieved only through adequate patient home care with regular professional cleanings/evaluations or re-care visits. Only in this way can problems be prevented or detected and corrected before they become extensive.

**Appointments:** Please respect your appointment time as much as we do. If changes need to be made, we require two business days notice.

**Goals:** Our goal is to keep you as a patient for life. Please help us do this by informing the Dr. or staff of any problems or requests. Your input is appreciated and may help us improve the care of many. Please share your thoughts with us.