

Patient Selection, Appointment and Financial Policy

Patient Selection

The purpose of the dental hygiene clinic is to give dental hygiene students the necessary experiences to become licensed professionals. All dental hygiene students are supervised by professional dental hygienists and dentists.

In order to best serve your needs, we will evaluate your oral and general health. If you are new to the clinic, your first appointment is a consultation. Based on the information gathered at this appointment, you will be scheduled with the level of student who can best meet your needs. If treatment by students is not in your best interest, you will be given a referral for care where your needs can be better met.

Patient Care

Any care you receive in our clinic will be individualized to meet your needs and will be upon your consent. The services we can and cannot provide are outlined below.

Your Care

1. Assessment

You will receive a thorough assessment to determine your oral condition and general health status, and to collect information that will be used to determine an individualized treatment plan. Assessments are performed at regular intervals.

2. Dental examination

All patients must have a dental examination by a licensed dentist within the previous 18 months of the dental hygiene appointment. If you do not have a dental home, you must be evaluated by the staff dentist before dental hygiene services may be performed. Please note: a dentist is not scheduled in all clinics.

3. Informed consent

You will be informed of the benefits, risks, alternatives, cost and time of planned treatment and will be able to ask questions about your treatment.

4. Dental hygiene services

Dental hygiene students may provide all services within the scope of dental hygiene practice. These services include:

- Oral health assessment
- Oral cancer screening
- Dental imaging (x-rays)
- Oral prophylaxis (preventive cleanings)
- Non-surgical periodontal treatment (scaling and root planing or “deep cleaning”)
- Pit and fissure sealants

- Fluoride therapy
- Nutrition analysis and counseling
- Tooth whitening
- Limited restorative procedures (simple fillings)

Dental hygiene students **CANNOT** provide:

- Complex restorations (fillings)
- Prosthodontics (crowns, partials, dentures)
- Endodontics (root canals)
- Orthodontics (braces)
- Surgery
- Extractions

5. Referral

All dental hygiene patients are referred to their dental home. If you do not have a dental home, you will be given contact information for local dentists. The dental hygiene clinic is not intended to replace regular examination and care by your dentist.

Appointments

Appointments are three hours in length and treatment usually requires more than one appointment. Students are graded for the work they do in clinic and if a patient does not arrive for the appointment, the student cannot be graded. Please honor students by keeping your appointment. In the event you must cancel an appointment, please call the dental hygiene clinic *at least* 24 hours in advance of the scheduled time.

Financial Responsibility

All fees will be explained to you at the time your treatment plan is developed. Fees for treatment are due at the time treatment is provided. You may pay by cash or check (no debit cards). If you wish to pay by credit card, a 2.75% convenience fee will be assessed. You may also make arrangements to use dental insurance benefits. Please let the dental hygiene clinic receptionist know about your insurance coverage when checking in for your appointment.

When the OIT Dental Hygiene Clinic is Not in Your Best Interest

Sometimes a learning center is not the best place to meet your needs. The most common reason is the time investment. If you cannot dedicate at least three hours for the completion of treatment, please consider seeking care in a private practice or clinic.

Also, if you have complex dental, medical, or emotional conditions that are beyond the capabilities of students; or if you don't meet your responsibilities as a patient you may be referred for care where your needs can be better met.

I understand the policies of the Oregon Tech Dental Hygiene Clinic and have received the list of Patient Rights and Responsibilities.

Signed _____ Date _____

Patient Rights and Responsibilities

Patient Bill of Rights

As a patient you have the right to:

- Receive treatment without discrimination as to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or source of payment
- Receive considerate and respectful care in a clean and safe environment
- Adequate time to ask questions and receive answers regarding your dental condition and treatment plan for your care
- Learn the optimal dental hygiene treatment plan for you as well as to ask for alternative treatment options
- An explanation of the purpose, probable (short- and long-term) results, alternatives, and risks of treatment before consenting to the proposed treatment plan
- Know the expected cost of treatment in advance
- Accept, defer, or decline any part of your treatment recommendations
- Receive complete information about any referral that is advised
- Expect that sterilization and infection control procedures are followed
- Treatment that meets the standard of care in the profession
- Privacy and confidentiality of all your information and records
- Review of your dental record
- Continuity and completion of treatment
- Refuse examination, treatment, observation, or research by any instructor or student
- Have questions, concerns, or complaints about care or services provided; and to seek a solution by discussing the matter with any student or instructor.

Patient Responsibilities

In order to receive the best care possible you have the responsibility for:

- Giving accurate and complete information about your health, to the best of your knowledge
- Reporting to the clinician unexpected changes in your health
- Reporting to the clinician whether or not you clearly understand the planned treatment and what is expected of you
- Following the treatment plan
- Keeping and being on time for appointments; giving 24 hours notice for any necessary cancellation
- Consequences resulting from refusing treatment or for failure to follow clinician's instructions
- Fulfilling financial obligations for oral health care promptly
- Being considerate of the rights and respectful to other patients, students, instructors, and staff