



Hygiene Appointment Types

PREVENTIVE CARE (PC) - Diagnosis – Healthy. 1. A preventive prophylaxis (cleaning). 2. Periodontal charting. 3. Supragingival and subgingival plaque and calculus removal. 4. Polish and 5. Education and co-therapy instructions.

Interval: Every 6 months.

PALLIATIVE (Treatment for pain) - Used for reporting treatment of periodontal abscesses and other acute periodontal and gingival conditions, this coded procedure is recommended for use with the patient whose levels of plaque and calculus are so heavy and the degree of tissue inflammation so prominent that a palliative treatment procedure is needed before diagnosis can be made.

Interval: As soon as it is determined that it will be beneficial.

SCALING IN THE PRESENCE OF INFLAMMATION (SPI) - Diagnosis – Gingivitis or infection of the gums.

Gingivitis can be characterized clinically by marked changes in color, exudates (pus). With no loss of attachment or bone in gingivitis, this scaling procedure is more precise in describing therapy for generalized gingivitis and is not meant to be performed on a routine basis. On completion of treatment, the gingival tissues should be normal and able to be maintained by preventive care appointments and excellent home co-therapy.

Interval: As soon as it is determined that it will be beneficial, then followed in 1-2 weeks with a preventive care appointment. After this preventive care appointment, the interval for preventive care is every 4 months unless retreatment of scaling in the presence of inflammation is necessary.

PERIODONTAL THERAPY (PT) - Diagnosis – Periodontitis or infection of the gums and bone supporting the teeth.

Non-surgical treatment of periodontal disease. This procedure includes: 1. Root planing (removing calculus or tarter and smoothing the root surface). 2. Curettage (removing the diseased gum tissue, which will allow it to heal tight against the bone, thereby reducing the pocket). Oral irrigation, as needed (killing bacteria deep within the pockets to aid in healing).

Interval: Treatment done by quads. Ideally two quads, one visit. Therapies ideally are scheduled 10-14 days apart.

4 WEEK PERIODONTAL THERAPY (4WKPT) - 1. Re-evaluation of soft tissue and healing response. 2. Re-evaluation exam. 3. Subgingival plaque and calculus removal. 4. Oral irrigation, as needed. 5. Review education and co-therapy instructions. 6. Determine maintenance interval.

Interval: Four (4) weeks after the final therapy.

PERIODONTAL MAINTENANCE (PM) - Successful periodontal therapy with regular periodic maintenance care can sustain periodontal health and reduce tooth loss. Appointment includes:

1. Subgingival plaque and calculus removal. 2. Perio charting. 3. Oral irrigation, as needed. 4. Review education and co-therapy instructions. 5. Polish. 6. Fluoride

When new or recurring periodontal disease appears, additional diagnostic and treatment procedures must be considered. The successful long-term control of periodontal disease depends upon active maintenance care through periodontal maintenance.

Interval: Every one, two, three or four months appears to be an effective treatment schedule. This can vary depending upon the clinical judgment of the dentist and hygienist.

SEALANTS (SL) - A preventive measure in which a plastic material is applied in the deep grooves on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth, where decay commonly occurs. Sealants act as a barrier to decay caused by plaque and acids. Treatment is guaranteed for three years.

Interval: As soon as they erupt into the mouth.