

WHAT TO EXPECT

YOUR FIRST VISIT TO TOOTHPALS

We want to make sure your child's first visit is a positive and thorough experience. Here's what you can expect during their first appointment.

A new patient visit typically involves a **full exam** which includes examination of teeth, tissues, lips and cheeks, **xrays** (if required) and a **cleaning** which includes polish and fluoride (if required).

EXAMINATIONS

Many dental insurance plans cover one new patient exam within a specific time period, typically between 1 to 3 years. If your child has had a new patient exam at another dental office recently, your insurance **may not** cover the cost of another one at our office.

REFERRED PATIENTS

Even if a patient is referred with a diagnosis or treatment plan from another dentist, Dr. Ranjan must perform his own examination to provide his own diagnosis and assess the child's unique dental and developmental needs to create a treatment plan.

Performing his own exam ensures that Dr. Ranjan provides the highest standard of care based on his specialized expertise and legal responsibility.

XRAYS

IF XRAYS ARE PROVIDED FROM ANOTHER OFFICE

The pediatric dentist or dental staff will evaluate the quality of the previous x-rays for clarity, diagnostic value, and relevance to the child's current dental condition.

Factors that may compromise the diagnostic quality include:

- Poor resolution or image clarity
- Outdated x-rays (over 6 months for a child with rapid dental development)
- Incorrect or incomplete views
- Incorrect angulation or exposure problems
- Misalignment of the child's developing teeth, which may not be properly captured

THE NEED FOR TAKING NEW XRAYS

If the prior x-rays are determined to be inadequate, outdated, or insufficient for the current diagnosis or treatment plan, **new x-rays will be taken.**

If new x-rays are needed, we can attempt to send a predetermination to your insurance provider to see if they are covered. If not, we will let you know about any out-of-pocket costs before we proceed if your insurance allows. Please note that most insurance companies do not provide predetermination results to our office.

We only take new x-rays when absolutely necessary, and we follow strict guidelines to avoid unnecessary radiation exposure.

SPECIALIST FEES AND INSURANCE

We are committed to providing exceptional pediatric dental care tailored to the unique needs of children. As a specialized pediatric dental practice, we follow a specialist fee guide that reflects our expertise, extra training, and the specialized services we provide.

Insurance companies often base their coverage on the **General Alberta Dental Fee Guide** which is provided to general dentists, **not to specialists**. This means that although your insurance plan may cover 100% of a general dentists fee from the general fee guide this same charge could equate to less when we charge based on our **Alberta Dental Specialist Fee guide**.

For example:

Your child has a complete dental exam at our office for **\$145**. Your insurance pays **100% based on the General Alberta Dental Fee guide** which is set to **\$100.00**. Therefore, even though your insurance coverage is 100% you will have a **copay of \$45.00** to cover the fee guide difference due to our fee being based on the **Specialist Alberta Dental fee guide** **NOT** the General Alberta Dental fee guide.

Please note that insurance coverage may vary for specialist services.

We recommend contacting your insurance provider to understand your benefits regarding specialist fees.

Our practice is committed to providing the best possible dental care based on the needs of your child, regardless of insurance coverage.

Treatment decisions will be made based on clinical necessity and the best interests of your child, rather than insurance limitations.

PLAN HOLDER RESPONSIBILITY

It is the plan holders responsibility to understand the terms of their insurance coverage **PRIOR** to the appointment. Please reach out to your insurance provider for your annual maximum, frequency limitations and specific details regarding your plan.



I CONFIRM I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE POLICIES REGARDING WHAT TO EXPECT AT MY CHILD'S FIRST VISIT.

SIGNATURE

DATE