

Orthodontic Information

The Orthodontic Department of the Brigade Dental Clinic Annapolis is dedicated to correcting malocclusions (bad bite) in order to improve esthetics, function and long term health of your teeth and supporting structures. When you have a malocclusion, your jaw and or lips do not line up normally. As a result your teeth may be crooked or crowded, your bite may not function correctly, or your jaws may appear unbalanced. Orthodontists use specially designed appliances (braces) and other corrective procedures to achieve tooth and jaw alignment. The Orthodontic Department consists of one Orthodontist, and one Dental Technician. Discuss with your general dentist if orthodontics is indicated for you.

To schedule an appointment when referred for treatment by the general dentist, or for any questions, **please call 410-293-3901/3902** between the hours of 0645-1600 Monday through Friday.

Orthodontic Evaluation

The demand for orthodontic care greatly exceeds the ability to provide treatment to everyone who request it, so some patients desiring care may not have treatment needs with a high enough priority to be treated at this time. Since a malocclusion (crooked teeth or bad bite) is rarely a threat to your overall general or dental health, orthodontic treatment of low priority cases can be deferred until a later time. Priority is given to cases where the malocclusion is severe and timing is critical to the success of treatment, i.e. space maintenance or a condition that is worsening with time affecting the masticatory or speech functions of the oral cavity. In general, orthodontic cases in adults are less critical with the condition or malocclusion usually stable and more long-standing. Navy regulations require that the patient have adequate time at their present duty station before they could receive orthodontic treatment and this may disqualify many of those needing treatment. Active duty members are required to have all orthodontic work pre-approved by their Commanding Officer and the treatment must be completed before transferring to their next duty station.

Appointments are scheduled if requested by another dentist as part of your comprehensive treatment plan. The purpose of the appointment is to assess the overall condition of your teeth and to answer questions you may have concerning your orthodontic condition. This assessment is part of the orthodontic screening process to determine the severity of your needs to help us better identify individual cases of a high priority that require intervention to avoid development of abnormal conditions. This screening exam will be done without the benefit of orthodontic records (models, x-rays, photos, etc.). A complete diagnosis of your case and an individualized course of treatment cannot be finalized at this appointment but tentative treatment options will be offered in an effort to give you more insight on what may be needed to improve your condition.

Every effort will be made by the Orthodontic Department to accommodate as many patients as possible who can truly benefit from orthodontic treatment. No decision regarding treatment will be possible at the evaluation appointment. Orthodontic patients are selected

through a process that includes triage and prioritization according to the severity of the malocclusion, the complexity of the treatment, the timing of appropriate care, the suitability of care at this dental clinic, and the patient's PRD. Since this is not a waiting list, it is important for you to understand that a recent arrival with higher priority treatment needs may begin treatment ahead of those with treatment needs of a lower priority. The Orthodontic Department will contact you if we need additional information or orthodontic records.

Contact the Orthodontic Department at 410-293-3901/3902 if there are any changes in your status or phone numbers at work or home. You will be contacted when space becomes available for your treatment.