

Patient Information - Dental Hygiene Treatments

Fillings to repair tooth decay may be small, medium or large and it may affect just one tooth or multiple teeth. It is very easy to rationalise that a single small filling will take less time and materials than larger or multiple fillings, hence the fees will differ accordingly.

Gum disease requires treatment and prevention in the same way that tooth decay does. The severity of disease, the number of teeth in your mouth it affects, and the amount of hard calculus deposits on your teeth and under your gums will influence how much treatment you need to restore your mouth to health. The fees for these treatments will also vary accordingly.

We will endeavour to give you a treatment plan and estimate of costs as soon as we have assessed your individual treatment needs. Sometimes more severe isolated gum problems are not picked up on initial basic screening, but may be identified at your cleaning treatment visit when a more thorough assessment is undertaken. You will be informed if more treatment is required than initially anticipated.

The treatment each individual needs is based upon evidence based practice guidelines as set out by our profession. Reassessment intervals and follow up treatment follow these same guidelines. Unfortunately, it is not always the case that Health Insurance rebates will cover as well as hoped, the costs of treatment that is required. You may even hear: *"you are not allowed more than 2 cleans a year"* according to your Health Fund. The correct version of that is: *"you may not be insured for all of the treatment that you require to return your mouth to a healthy state"*. Whilst we will do all we can to maximise the benefits you can legitimately claim from your health fund for the treatment you need, our main focus is on ensuring that you receive the best treatment possible based upon well evidenced clinical guidelines rather than Health Fund rebate policies.

We have categorised gum treatments on a separate page to give you a guide as to what type of treatment is involved in restoring or maintaining your gum health. Please ask your dentist or hygienist if you would like any more specific information on your own oral or gum health.