

SEQUENCE OF APPOINTMENTS

Just as no two people are exactly alike, no two treatment programs are exactly alike. Dr. Specht will personally diagnose each patient's case based on the information gathered during the examination and thorough review of the diagnostic records. Diagnostic records include photographs and a CBCT 3D image scan. The following information will explain the sequence of diagnostic records and the next steps to beginning orthodontic care with our office.

CBCT 3D scan

A 3D cone beam imaging scan is used in order to accurately determine where to move each tooth within the upper and lower jaws. Dr. Specht uses this information throughout your treatment as well as during the retention phase. This scan is an essential part of providing quality orthodontic care and monitoring the progress of your treatment. Also photographs are taken so that the progress of your treatment can be tracked.

THE NEXT STEPS AFTER DIAGNOSTIC RECORDS

Placement of Braces or Appliances

At this appointment we will place the recommended braces or appliances that were discussed at the exam and the treatment presentation appointment. It is very important to us that you have a complete understanding of what your appliances will accomplish and how they should be cared for once you leave our office. Keeping your teeth and gums clean during your orthodontic treatment is extremely important and you will receive a "care kit" with instructions regarding the proper way to brush and floss.

Spacers will be placed at this appointment also if needed for applying the bands around the molars. This appointment typically takes place one week after your braces are put on. If you choose, you may come one week before your scheduled appointment to have your braces put on, and have your spacers inserted so that the application of all of your braces can be done in one visit. Either way works very well.

SCHEDULING GOALS

We recognize that most of our patients have many obligations during the day; usually involving work or school. When active orthodontic treatment begins, you will see Dr. Specht every 8-10 weeks on average, and some of these appointments may conflict with work or school schedules. One of our goals is to have as few of these inconveniences as possible. To help us achieve our goal, we have devoted considerable time and effort to establishing the following scheduling guidelines.

SHORTER APPOINTMENTS

You may be amazed how quickly technical adjustments can be made. These quick appointments can be scheduled at various times during the day. As you can imagine, the after school appointments are booked very heavily so that as many patients as possible do not have to miss work or school. If you prefer a quieter time, please ask to schedule a late morning appointment.

LONGER APPOINTMENTS

Longer appointments are scheduled during school and work hours. In this way, an entire afternoon is not committed to only one or two patients. Instead, we are able to accommodate as many families as possible.

LATE ARRIVAL & RESCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

We realize that once in awhile, unforeseen circumstances arise which may cause you to change or overlook your appointment. We will do our best to reschedule your visit as soon as possible. Because our schedule is carefully designed, arriving late for your appointment can create a problem. We ask that you keep in mind that each procedure in our office is allotted a certain amount of time. Late arrival or a series of rescheduled visits may not allow us to complete the necessary procedure. This may result in a delay of your treatment and possible extension of the total treatment time. If it appears that you will be running late or need to change your appointment, kindly call the office to let us know. We will gladly reschedule your visit. If you are more than 10 minutes late and there are other patients waiting, your appointment will be rescheduled also.

COMFORT AND EMERGENCY APPOINTMENTS

Emergency time is held open during each working day so that we may schedule you as soon as possible during normal hours. Please understand that although we keep a variety of emergency times available, we may not be able to offer you your "ideal" time for an emergency appointment. Another of our goals is to accommodate you as quickly as possible based on the urgency of the situation. If you have an emergency with your appliances, please call the office before you come in. This will allow us to assess the problem and determine the appropriate amount of time needed for your visit. Patients arriving as a comfort appointment will be seen and made comfortable. All repairs will be performed during a regularly scheduled appointment, as additional time may be needed for repairs. An example of an emergency appointment would be wires poking your cheeks, or a spring that is half way off. If you have an appliance come off, please keep it and bring to your appointment with you. If you have a bracket come loose, it will dangle on the wire, but will not affect your treatment in the short term. Just call our office and we will get you a regular appointment time scheduled. Wax can be used to hold the bracket to the tooth if it is bothering you, but should cause no discomfort.