

# FIVE LEVELS OF CARE

We understand that choosing a new dentist and dental health team can be a challenge, leaving you feeling somewhat uncertain. The philosophy for our practice briefly stated....

“We promise to create a health-base, high quality dental experience for individuals who value their oral health and seek a personal, relationship-based healthcare experience.”

Our goal is to help you be or become healthy as you choose. This is a departure from the way we were trained. Instead of telling you how healthy you ought to be, we will try to help you understand your choices about dental health and then let you make an informed choice. Your first choice on the five levels on which people are seen in our practice:

**LEVEL 1 - URGENT CARE:** People in crisis or with emergency problems such as pain, swelling or bleeding who need immediate assistance. We see emergencies immediately and our dentist is always on call.

**LEVEL 2 - REMEDIAL CARE:** People who choose this level of care desire treatment only when something breaks or becomes uncomfortable. People at this level prefer short term, cursory exams and screening for very obvious, more advanced problems. They usually want to correct immediate problems with as little effort and cost as possible, even though the treatment may not be a long term solution. Those at this level are not yet ready for a comprehensive examination or treatment plan. Their motto might be, “Just take care of what is wrong today and not worry about tomorrow”. These people may be counting on luck, at least for the present.

**LEVEL 3 - SELF-CARE:** People choose this level of care if they want to keep their teeth a lifetime, with comfort, excellent function and appearance. People at this level choose to have a comprehensive exam which fully evaluates the health of their teeth and gums, including the dynamic relationship of the jaws to the continued health of the dental system. During this examination process, we jointly formulate a long term plan for the patient’s preferred dental future. According to the individual choice, patients can follow a “holding” plan until they can proceed to a higher level. These people are interested in personally improving their dental health by preventing and treating any active disease processes, but are not ready to commence major treatment. People at this level are monitored through frequent preventative maintenance visits with our hygienist.

**LEVEL 4 - COMPLETE DENTISTRY:** People at this level are similar to that described above, but are ready to commence treatment. They choose to have a comprehensive exam and formulate a long term plan designed to achieve a dental future of choice, not chance. Unlike the self-care person, they are ready to commence treatment. They also want to understand and control the causative agents of disease. Again, they interface closely with our preventative and hygiene departments before, during and after treatment.

**LEVEL 5 - WELLNESS RESOURCES:** People here are in excellent dental health, and desire to see the hygienist two to four times per year, with complete monitoring exams done annually by the dentist. These people practice highly effective levels of nutrition with home care and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Our intent is to assist these people in finding others in the community who might help them to attain even higher levels of well-being. Some people begin at lower level and progress over time. If we can assist with your decision regarding the level most comfortable for you, please call us. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your dental needs!