**Practice Payment & Charges Policy**

It is the responsibility of this practice to give patients full information about the cost of their dental care before any treatment is undertaken.

A list of common treatment charges is available at reception for treatments..

**We will ensure that all patients:**

* Are advised of what they must pay, when they should pay and how they can pay (e.g. cheque, cash, card, direct transfer)
* Know what they will receive for their payment (i.e. what treatment or care)
* Understand their treatment is provided privately
* Are given a written estimate and treatment plan on request or where treatment involves more than routine preventive examination and hygiene care
* Understand their own responsibilities in terms of payment terms and how to avoid any penalty for overdue fees (missed appointment charges, late payment etc)
* Are not pressured into signing agreements or paying fees
* Obtain a receipt for any payments they make and can review their account details
* Can talk to a staff member who can explain clearly what payments are due and what they are for
* Can discuss with staff what treatment options and costs are available
* Are given an estimate where a precise cost cannot be determined in advance (e.g. laboratory work) and will receive timely advice of any additional costs where appropriate

We try to make payment as straightforward as possible.

**Payment & Refund Policy**

**Payment Method**

All major debit and credit cards are accepted.

**Change of Details**

You must inform the practice immediately of any changes to your contact details. Failure to do so will mean that we are not able to provide you with essential information and updates.

**Cancellation of Courses of Treatment**

If, for any reason, a course of treatment is cancelled, then we will make every reasonable effort to give the patient as much notice as possible. Droitwich Dental Studio’s maximum liability will be limited to a refund of the advance payment fee ONLY. Refunds will be made by the method in which the treatment booking was paid. We will not accept liability for any additional costs or losses incurred by a patient or organisations, which are claimed to have arisen through treatment cancellation. We reserve the right to vary arrangements for the delivery of a treatment plan and in such cases will make reasonable efforts to inform patients in advance.

**Cancellation by the Patient**

You may cancel a course of treatment for which you have booked an appointment and be fully refunded all fees for treatment not yet performed; provided you give the practice a minimum of 48 hours prior notice.

If 48 hours prior notice is not received, we reserve the right to withhold a proportionate amount of money, based upon the length of the appointment, to cover overheads.

We will refund the money to patients who wish to discontinue treatment at any time. A notice period of 14 days is required upon which they will be eligible for a refund of any amount paid for treatment that they did not receive.

If a patient is receiving any treatment that involves laboratory work and initial work has been carried out; i.e. if the patient is having crowns/bridges or a denture made, and the work has already been started or completed by the laboratory, a proportion of the fee taken on the preparation appointment will be kept to cover the cost of the laboratory invoice.

If you have paid for services not yet provided, that do not involve a laboratory fee, we will either credit your account or refund the transaction paid by the method by which the original payment was made. If the method was cash and you are unable to collect the refund in person, it will be posted to you in the form of a cheque.

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**Bad Debt Policy**

This practice maintains a strict payment policy where all payments for dental treatment should be paid in full prior to the completion of treatment.

It is the discretion of the treating dentist as to whether the full payment is required before the start of treatment. Payments can be made by cash or by debit card. Credit card payments will also be accepted.

Card payments can be taken over the phone. If for whatever reason the fees are not paid, the practice will inform the patient via a text message/letter or email that there is money outstanding on their account and to refer to our payment policy.

A second text message, letter or email will then be sent requesting immediate payment if payment is not paid within a seven-day period. If there has been no contact or payment within the next seven-day period then a third text message will be sent warning of losing the right to be seen at the practice with immediate effect.

If payment is not made within a further 24 hours, we will use a debt recovery company to recover the debt outstanding.