

Refusing Radiographs

Dear Patient,

American Dental makes every effort to accommodate our patients' needs. Some patients feel very strongly that they do not want x-rays taken. However, the American Dental Association, Oregon Board of Dentistry and the Food and Drug Administration have made it very clear that dental providers must have recent x-rays prior to any treatment.

The following are quotes from the Oregon Board of Dentistry:

"The standard of Care in Oregon requires that current radiographs are available prior to providing treatment to a patient. If a patient without medical justification refuses to allow radiographs to be taken, even with the offer to sign a waiver, then providing treatment to that patient would violate the Standard of Care in Oregon."

"It is below the standard of care to treat a patient who refused to allow any radiographs to be taken unless there is a documented medical justification for the refusal."

"A patient refusing to have x-rays taken is not something that a dentist can agree to as it violates the standard of care."

"X-rays are a diagnostic tool, and based on the condition of a patient's oral health and the guidelines from the ADA and the FDA and what is taught in dental school is what is considered the standard of care for dentists."

Recent X-rays are defined as:

"Bitewings every 24-36 months in established adult patients with no caries and no increased risk of developing caries and every 18-36 months for adolescents with permanent dentition (Journal of the American Dental Association, September 2006, Vol. 137:9, pp. 1,304-1,312). For recall adult patients with caries or at increased risk of developing caries, the exams are recommended at 6- to 18 month intervals."

Thank you for your cooperation,

American Dental