

How to choose a dentist

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Selecting a dentist can be uncertain and confusing. Each dentist's philosophy and chairside manner will vary between offices, strongly influencing your overall dental experience. Yellow page ads and television commercials can paint a picture that may not completely reflect the character of the dental practice.

Some of the best referrals will come from friends, family or colleagues, people who have actually been a patient in a particular office. The practice's location and hours of operation can be considerations; however, other inquiries will reveal the personality of the dental office. Is the office clean? Are they on time? Are all of your concerns and questions addressed in a timely manner? Do they explain treatments thoroughly, including all fees involved with the service?

The attitude and personality of the dentist is generally reflected through the staff. Is the staff professional and knowledgeable? If the dentist enjoys being at the office and genuinely cares for his patients and staff will echo that sentiment. Frequent staff turnover, may indicate underlying concerns within the office.

The exam and evaluation during the routine hygiene recall appointments should be thorough. Is an oral cancer screening done? Do they educate the patient on their existing dental conditions as well as offer ways to improve their dental health and home care? Any future treatment needed should always be reviewed.

Ultimately, **trust** is the foundation of any good dentist – patient relationship. It is essential to know, that your best interest, is in the dentist's primary concern.

As a late note, with the bankruptcy of GM, all retired employees will probably be losing their dental benefits very soon. So, contact your dentist now to complete any unfinished treatment while you still have coverage.

You may contact Dr. Cadden's office for comments or questions

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