

When to Take Radiographs (X-rays)

Your dental team will need radiographs (X-rays) to properly diagnose your dental health and needs. Your dentist will use their judgment when deciding what type of radiographic exam to prescribe for you. Not every patient and their needs are exactly the same.

A radiograph is an X-ray. There are many types depending on what your dentist is attempting to diagnose. Your dentist may require a FMX (Full Mouth X-ray), a Panoramic X-ray (upper and lower jaws on a single film) or individual films (PA or BW) to target a specific area.

Your dentist will recommend the X-ray that is correct for your needs. Various Insurance plans have frequency schedules based on their business plan. Our goal is to deliver the most comprehensive diagnosis possible based solely on our patient's needs, not on the frequency allowance of an insurance plan.

Decisions are based on:

- Findings from the patient history and clinical examination
- Tailored to the needs of the individual patient
- Influenced by that patient's risk of dental disease
- Supported by the dentist's knowledge of disease progression



Periapical Endodontic Radiograph



Panoramic Radiograph

Factors considered in prescribing radiographs:

- Health status of a new or established patient
- Date and availability of most recent radiographs
- Patient age and stage of dental development
- Risk of dental decay/cavities
- Clinical evidence of bone loss
- Number of teeth and desire for dentures/bridge care
- Pain, swelling or other signs or symptoms of dental disease

If you have questions, please speak to one of our team members!