

4.

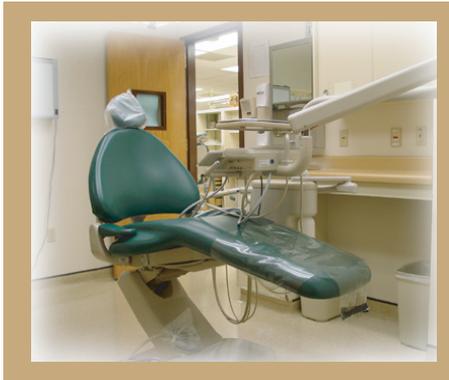
Make sure that when you need dental care, you and the dentist agree on what is going to be done during the appointment.

Ask exactly what will be done, how long it will take, what to expect during the procedure and how you can communicate to him/her during the procedure.

Inform the dentist if you have had reactions during previous dental work such as anxiety, anesthesia, latex, or medications.



Read all consent forms and ask questions until you understand. Ask the dentist about the likelihood of any of the listed risks.



5.

Know what you should and should not do at home, how to take your medicines and when to return for follow-up care.

Ask for written instructions.

Request a second opinion if you are not comfortable.

Keep all follow-up appointments.

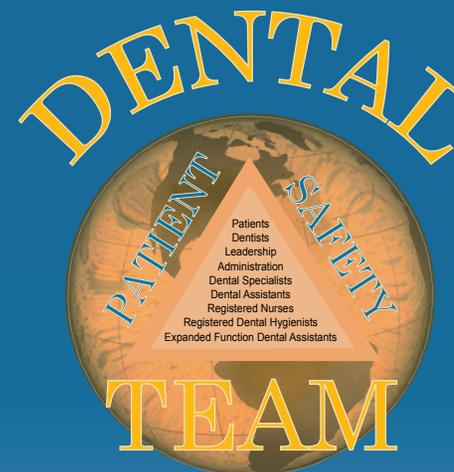
Dental Provider Information

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Five Steps to Safer Dental Care



Everyone has a role in making health care safe. As the patient you should participate in every decision about your health care including dentistry.

5

STEPS

TO IMPROVE THE
QUALITY OF YOUR
DENTAL CARE...

1.

**Be an active
member of
your dental care team.**

Ask questions and get answers that you can understand.

Expect the staff to ask you who you are and why you are there.



Speak up if you think you have been confused with another patient.

2.

**Tell your dentist
about medical
problems, medications,
allergies or bad reactions you
have had in the past.**



Keep a record of all medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements you use and take the list to all of your appointments.

Ask what any prescription is for, side effects, or possible drug interactions.

Know when and how to take the medications prescribed. Your pharmacist can also give you this information.

3.

**Talk openly with
your dentist and
the dental team about your
care and treatment choices.**

Tell your dentist about any medical problems you might have. Many diseases are affected by your oral health.

Understand what your treatment plan is and the number of visits you will need.

Ask what type of care a specialist would provide if the dentist refers you.

Inform your dentist if you are having difficulty with getting follow-up care or appointments that are recommended.

