

5 things to know

BEFORE CHOOSING A GENERAL DENTIST



choosing a general dentist

CHOOSING YOUR PARTNER IN DENTISTRY CAN BE A CHALLENGING YET VERY REWARDING EXPERIENCE. YOU WANT A GENERAL DENTIST WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO MEET YOUR ORAL CARE NEEDS IN YOUR DESIRED WAY. HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT LOCATING SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL? BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR SEARCH, IT IS OFTEN HELPFUL TO HAVE A PLAN OF ACTION AND AN IDEA OF WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR NEW DENTAL PRACTICE. CONSIDER THESE FIVE THINGS BEFORE CHOOSING A GENERAL DENTIST.

1

Conduct Your Research

Finding the right general dentist is just as important as choosing the right medical doctor for you and your family. Conducting your own research is crucial to ensuring that you select the oral care provider who can best address your needs. It is often helpful to start by asking friends, family members, neighbors, and colleagues whom they see. Chairside manner and likeability are two characteristics that are important to many people – and are usually the first qualities most report when asked about their general dentists.

Aside from inquiring about the dentist, it can be advantageous to ask about the dental staff as well. Much time in a dental office is spent interacting with the hygienists, assistants, and front office professionals. How do these individuals treat patients? How do they interact with each other? The answers to these questions can give you an overall feeling of a prospective dental office.

2

Inquire About Services Provided

Beyond routine oral care, you may wish to seek out a general dentist who also provides services such as cosmetic, reconstructive, and restorative procedures. What are your personal oral health goals? Having a good idea of your needs and objectives when it comes to your smile and the health of your mouth can help guide you towards a provider who is right for you. Visiting the websites of prospective dentists or calling their offices directly can help you narrow your search.



#3

Determine the Type of Technology Utilized

A significant factor in your decision may be the technology utilized in a particular dental office. The field of dentistry has enjoyed numerous technological advancements, rendering many procedures shorter in duration and minimally invasive. For instance, the use of digital versus traditional film x-rays reduces the level of radiation by up to 90 percent while also generating improved diagnostic ability.

#4

Learn About Scheduling, Insurance Acceptance, and Payment Options

Another aspect to consider is your scheduling needs. Does the office offer appointment times you could work into your schedule? Can all family members visit the office for oral care? If insurance coverage and payment options are of importance to you, make certain to inquire about how benefits are handled and financial arrangements made prior to your visit.

#5

Schedule a New Patient Consultation

After conducting your research, the next step is to schedule a new patient consultation. This visit can validate the information you have collected, potentially beginning a long-lasting relationship with your new general dentist. To ensure that you have selected the right oral care provider for you and your family, come prepared to your visit with a list of questions regarding factors about treatment that concern you most. Do you feel that the dentist listens to your concerns and places your needs at the forefront of any proposed treatment? Are you involved in the planning of your treatment, and do you feel that you have been given sufficient information to make informed decisions concerning your oral health?

Whatever characteristics resonate most with you, and the feelings and overall impressions that come with them, can lead you to your best decision in choosing a general dentist.