

Understanding Dental Fees

Dentistry falls outside of the Canada Health Act. As a result, dentists must operate under a “Fee-for-Service” model, like other health providers such as eye doctors, and physiotherapists.

-dentists are small business owners providing health care. Like any business owner, the dentist must pay for the FULL cost of running their business.

-these costs include everything from rent, to staff salaries and benefits, dental equipment and supplies. These business costs vary depending on factors such as location, size of the business, etc. This explains why fees can vary between dental offices.

-the Nova Scotia Dental Association produces an annual “Suggested Fee Guide” based upon on-going economic research. It is a tool used by dentists to help them arrive at their specific fees for service. It is also used by some insurance companies to formulate their fee guides.

The Children’s Oral Health Program (COHP)

-the COHP covers some dental services for Nova Scotian children with a health card, from birth to the end of the month in which they turn 15.

*-this is a program that is set by the Government, not the dentist.. The purpose of the COHP is **“to ensure equal access to basic dental care for all eligible children residing in NS. It is not intended to act as an enhancement to a private dental plan.”** Therefore, there may be services recommended by your dentist that are not covered by the COHP.*

We do not have control over the benefits of this government program.

