

# “Do I Really Need X-Rays?”

Many people share your same concern with amount of radiation with dental X-rays. We agree, we want the minimal amount of necessary exposure for our patients, our family and ourselves! This is why our office diligently follows all safety regulations, including periodic evaluation and certification of our X-ray machines. We also have digital X-rays, which have a fraction of the radiation of traditional film X-rays.

## Standard of Care for X-Rays

The standard of care requires current radiographs are available prior to providing treatment to a patient. If a patient without medical justification refuses to allow radiographs to be taken, even with the offer to sign a waiver, then providing treatment to that patient would violate the standard of care.

We are a preventative based practice that utilizes the A.L.A.R.A principal (As Low As Reasonably Allowable) and we follow the joint Federal Drug Administration/American Dental Association Guidelines for Dental X-Rays. That is an individual approach in which factors such as patients age, health history, cavity risk and past dental history are considered. We NEVER only take X-rays when a patient becomes symptomatic, as that does not meet standard of care.

