

# Updated dental benefit amounts for 2012



The Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees are the basis of payment for eligible dental claims through your plan. These rates are market-determined and reflect the fees accepted by most dental offices across Alberta today.

**Effective January 1, 2012, Alberta Blue Cross will be increasing the amount your dentist is paid for eligible services claimed through your benefit plan.**

For 2012, Usual and Customary dental fees will increase by a weighted average of **3.81** per cent over 2011 levels.

These fees are based on recent claim data from actual marketplace billings of Alberta Blue Cross group dental plan participants by Alberta dental offices.

## Understanding your dental benefit

In Alberta, individual dentists are able to set their own prices. This situation differs from that of many other provinces where dentists follow a fee guide established by provincial dental associations. As a result, dental offices across the province charge widely varying fees for dental services. Even though


Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees provide the closest match to what most Alberta dentists are charging for services, you may face out-of-pocket costs—regardless of the basis of payment of claims or level of coverage provided through your dental plan.

Should your dental provider charge more than your plan allows, you will be responsible for the difference. You will also still be required to pay any co-pay or deductible amounts (where applicable) at the time of your appointment.

## Access to information

All Alberta dental offices have a copy of the 2012 Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary fees, as well as quick and easy access to information about your dental coverage online. Most offices submit claims online to Alberta Blue Cross right at the time of your appointment, which means you can know instantly if you have an outstanding balance.

Learn more about your benefits by visiting the Alberta Blue Cross web site for plan members at [www.ab.bluecross.ca/online\\_services.html](http://www.ab.bluecross.ca/online_services.html).

A photograph of a female dentist with curly hair, wearing a white lab coat over a light blue top. She is standing in a dental office with her hands clasped in front of her, smiling at the camera.

**For your reference, the back of this page contains 2012 Usual and Customary dental fees for 30 common dental procedures.**

# 2012 Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees common procedures

Please consult your plan contract or benefit booklet for full information on any co-payment levels required by your plan.

Service description	2012 amount	Service description	2012 amount
Complete examination (New patient - all permanent teeth).....	<b>\$98.00</b>	Four surface amalgam (silver) filling - permanent molar.....	<b>\$197.50</b>
Recall examination (checkup).....	<b>\$63.24</b>	Two pins for filling.....	<b>\$39.50</b>
One x-ray (periapical).....	<b>\$26.00</b>	Three surface composite (white) filling - permanent anterior tooth.....	<b>\$170.00</b>
Three x-rays (periapical).....	<b>\$58.04</b>	Two surface composite (white) filling - permanent bicuspid.....	<b>\$180.00</b>
Two x-rays (bitewing).....	<b>\$42.63</b>	One surface composite (white) filling - permanent molar.....	<b>\$135.24</b>
Four x-rays (bitewing).....	<b>\$76.00</b>	Porcelain fused to metal crown.....	<b>\$803.00*</b>
Panoramic (whole mouth) x-ray.....	<b>\$84.00</b>	Lab processed veneer.....	<b>\$727.78*</b>
Polishing (up to 15 minutes).....	<b>\$60.00</b>	Root canal therapy (three roots).....	<b>\$1027.00</b>
Scaling (removal of tartar, up to 15 minutes).....	<b>\$63.34</b>	Root planing (removal of tartar, etc. from roots; up to 30 minutes).....	<b>\$136.08</b>
Fluoride.....	<b>\$29.84</b>	Complete upper denture.....	<b>\$750.00*</b>
Pit & fissure sealant (first tooth).....	<b>\$30.42</b>	Pontic for fixed bridge (to replace missing tooth).....	<b>\$399.00*</b>
Pit & fissure sealant (each additional tooth, same area).....	<b>\$16.11</b>	Retainer (crown) for fixed bridge.....	<b>\$819.00*</b>
Two surface amalgam (silver) filling - primary tooth.....	<b>\$121.00</b>	Uncomplicated tooth removal (first tooth).....	<b>\$117.00</b>
Three surface amalgam (silver) filling - permanent anterior tooth/bicuspid.....	<b>\$158.93</b>	Uncomplicated tooth removal (each additional tooth in same area).....	<b>\$109.20</b>
Two surface amalgam (silver) filling - permanent molar.....	<b>\$129.00</b>	Tooth removal - complete bone coverage.....	<b>\$346.15</b>

\* plus lab fees



## We're here to help!

If you have any questions about your dental benefits, please call Alberta Blue Cross Customer Services at:

**780-498-8000 (Edmonton and area),  
403-234-9666 (Calgary and area) or  
1-800-661-6995 (toll free).**

## Examples

of Usual and Customary Dental Fees for  
some typical services

**Adult checkup (recall/ cleaning) .....\$322.39**

recall exam, 2 bitewing radiographs, 2 time  
units scaling, 1 time unit polishing, fluoride

**Restoration ("filling") .....\$237.00**

4 surface amalgam (silver) filling, permanent  
molar, 2 pins for filling

**Three-unit bridge .....\$2,037.00\***

Retainer (crown) for fixed bridge, Pontic for  
fixed bridge (to replace missing tooth),  
Retainer (crown) for fixed bridge

**Crown ..... \$966.00\***

Porcelain fused to metal crown,  
Post - cast metal

\* plus lab fees



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