

Alberta Dental Fee Guide

Effective January 1, 2018

The Alberta Dental Association and College (ADA&C) has released Alberta's first dental fee guide in 20 years which comes into effect on January 1, 2018. The guide features recommended fees that are 8.5% lower for the most common dental procedures when compared to 2016 rates. The guide was developed to create transparency in the dental industry and encourage dentists to reduce dental service fees so Alberta is better aligned with the national average. The guide suggests dentists follow the guide; however, it is not mandatory.

The Alberta Blue Cross “Usual and Customary (U&C) Dental Fee Guide” will be aligned with the ADA&C fee guide. The impact to you, as a City employee, will depend on whether or not your dentist will charge the recommended fee in the ADA&C guide. If your dentist charges as per the fee guide, you will pay less out of pocket for most dental procedures than previously. If your dentist does not follow the fee guide, and continues to charge more than is recommended, you will be responsible for the difference and may pay slightly more out of pocket as the City’s level of coverage follows the Alberta Blue Cross “Usual and Customary (U&C) Dental Fee Guide”.

If you are receiving dental services as of January 1, 2018, it is recommended that you visit www.dentalhealthalberta.ca and search for “fee guide.” This will allow you to view the recommended fees for any dental procedure. The Government of Alberta advises that as a dental consumer you have the right to talk to your dentist about the services recommended for you, how much they cost and if they charge according to the fee guide. You have the right to contact a number of dentists if you wish to compare prices or to shop around for services that best meet your needs

It is advisable to ask for an estimate for the dental procedure(s) your dentist is recommending before proceeding with treatment. Most dental providers can submit an electronic predetermination to Alberta Blue Cross prior to your appointment. This allows your dental provider to check how much of the dental procedure the City’s plan will cover, so you know how much of the cost will be out-of-pocket.