

Fair Pricing Policy

Here at Causeway Dental fair pricing is an important part of our ethos. We want the fees we charge you as a patient to be good value to you but to also reflect a fair price for our skills and experience – without compromising the quality of materials, our duty to the environment, or the respect we have for our staff and supplies.

Making you aware of the fees

We want you to be fully aware of the treatment we are proposing, the reason why we are proposing it and of the fees that you will pay before treatment starts. We also want you to be aware of when your fees will be due, in most cases this will be at the end of each appointment.

To do this we will:

- Display a fee guide on the web site, and make sure it is available at reception
- Discuss with you the treatment we think is necessary and the reasons why and provide any further information about your treatment.
- Provide a treatment plan which includes estimated costs for each patient before treatment starts
- Provide a new treatment plan with updated fees if the treatment needs to change for any reason

How can I save money on my dental treatment?

- **Sign up to one of our dental plans!** We think they offer great value for patients as the base cost is lower than you would pay fee per item for your routine appointments, but you also benefit from a member's price for certain treatment costs, and eligibility to request assistance from the Worldwide Dental Emergency Assistance Scheme. You can read more about the plans on our website, (terms and conditions apply).
- We have a range of advice for helping you save money on dental treatment which you could look at here, ranging from advice from our hygienists on prevention, through to the different treatment options that may be available to you from our dentists.

All our treatment is aimed at getting you dentally fit and making your mouth as self cleansing as possible, to help to significantly reduce your treatment needs going forward into the future.

Fee Rises

We review our fees every year based on our current costs and the current market conditions we will decide whether to increase some or all of our fees. Updated fee guides are always available from our reception team and from our website.

If our Membership Plan fees are to rise, you will also be informed by letter or email.

If we raise our fees and you have a treatment plan that is less than 90 days old, the prices on it will be valid from 3 months from the date of the rise. Treatment plans that are older than 90 days will be subject to new fees.

But why do you have to raise your fees?

The two major factors we take into consideration when adjusting our fees are, our costs and the market conditions. Our costs are all the things that we must pay for in order to run our practice. There are all sorts of them ranging from cleaning and insurance to energy. By far the biggest of these are the staff wages, the materials and the laboratory costs.

We want you to have confidence in our team and the best possible service and treatment. To do this we need the best people working for us. We think it's only right to pay them a fair wage, if we didn't someone else would and we would lose them.

The cost for materials and laboratories varies hugely. We could reduce our fees by using cheaper materials but don't have biocompatible properties or find a cheaper laboratory, but we have found over the years that this is often a false economy. In the world of dental materials and laboratories it is almost universally true that you get what you pay for, if we used a cheaper filling material it will not look as nice or last as long and may have undesirable ingredients. Use a cheaper laboratory and the crown may not fit as well, look as natural or be as strong – ultimately meaning that you will probably end up paying more.

Dental material costs also change based on the world market. Most of the items we use are manufactured in Europe, and any changes in the relationship between the UK and its trading partners will cause costs to fluctuate.

We consider all these factors when deciding if we should raise our fees. More than just the outright value of our services we also believe there are certain principles which we try to uphold.....

Why our prices say ‘from’, and our treatment plans are ‘estimates’

- It’s hard to be completely accurate on our fee guide, for example for a white filling on our guide it says (depending on the size) “From”. So why do we say ‘from’ and not just give a fee? A small filling at the front of the mouth is easy to get to and doesn’t use much material which will be cheaper. A big filling at the back of the mouth will take longer, it will be more difficult to get to and it will use more material, therefore the cost will be more.
- Sometimes there are things that we would want to fix before we even get to filling, a good example is gum disease. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that gum disease has a considerable effect on your overall health, and we should always want to sort that out first. We also try to look at the reasons why you are having the problems you are having, if you need a filling is this signalling a problem with what you eat? Perhaps if we can help you fix that we can stop you needing fillings in the future, but we won’t know that until we see you

We feel it an absolute necessity to minimize our impact on the environment

We use sustainable products when we can. We reduce our energy needs by turning lights off and computers when not in use.

We want to make use of the fantastic local talent we have in our area,

We could use a large centralised Laboratory who provide lab work to the whole country, or even a lab based abroad but we would probably be speaking to different technicians for each job, and we want to be able to pop in and see our master lab craftsman when we have a technically challenging treatment, we think that provides you with better service too.

We want to build a relationship with our suppliers

We could probably switch the supplier of our materials to a large multinational, but the savings are minimal. We believe in supporting local businesses and building relationships with our suppliers.

We think by following these principals we are giving you the best possible service at good value, our impact on the environment is as small as it can be and we are treating our staff and suppliers fairly, this is what we mean by fair pricing.

Even when we have seen you and provide you with a treatment plan, the figures are an estimate, we will try to explain in the plan why there might be variation, but the main reason we have to be unspecific is that we just can’t be sure of what’s going on until we have actually seen it or started the work.

A good example of this is where we may need to replace a failing crown. Even an X-ray won't show if there is decay under the crown, we won't know the extent of the problem until we have taken the old crown off. More or less work might be required than was expected. Sometimes it might be that you pay less than we were expecting for the same reason.

Why our prices may be more expensive than another practice:

We regularly check the prices of other practices in the area to ensure that we are competitive, it is unlikely we are a great deal different but if you have seen some very low prices on the internet you should proceed with caution, the saying 'if something seems too good to be true, then it probably is' is as true in dentistry as in general life, here are some things to check:

- Make sure that you are not getting 'partial pricing'. For example, if you see a low price for an implant make sure it is for the implant, and the crown. We have seen a quote for an implant that didn't include the crown and we believe that this is unfair pricing. The common understanding is that an implant means the implant and the crown as a total price. Implants sometimes have other costs associated with them based on your own circumstances, bone grafts being the most common so always check and ask what additional cost there might be.
- As discussed above, the cost of materials varies considerably, and this will be the most difficult thing for you to assess, but this could be another reason why prices vary. If you are in any doubt check exactly what materials you will be getting and what is in them, we love it when our patients ask us this as it shows they are really thinking about their health.

Finally as Red Adair so eloquently put, "IF you think it's expensive to hire a professional to do the job, wait until you hire an amateur." The skill, experience and manner of our dentists really does matter. At Causeway Dental we only select dentists and hygienists who have similar ethos, high ethical and environmental standards, and excellent dental skills, and we think it is fair to pay them what they are worth. We have a lot of experience of dealing with simple through to complex and challenging cases. I hope that this fair pricing leaflet has answered any questions you may have. If you have not found what you are looking for here, feel free to drop us a line and ask your question over pricing, or indeed anything else.

The Team at Causeway Dental