

DENTISTRY TODAY

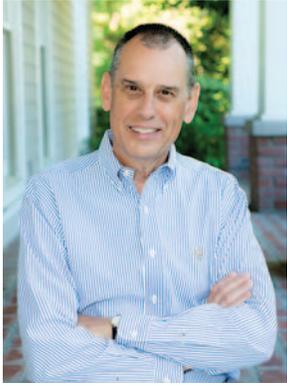
1947 Citrona Dr. • Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 • (904) 261-7181 • www.ameliadental.com



COMPREHENSIVE
DENTISTRY

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 - 5:00, Friday 8:30 - 1:00

Dear Patients



As some of you may have heard, I will be retiring in May 2014. I am doing this with mixed emotions. It has been a joy to live and practice dentistry in Fernandina Beach for the past 42 years. I have been blessed to work in a profession I love and raise a family in one of the best places on earth. I want to thank all of you who have allowed me to care for your dental needs. I have been honored by your support.

I want to thank the incredible team of dental assistants, front office personnel and hygienists at Amelia Dental Group. Some of these talented professionals have worked with me for many years, one for 40 and several others for 15 to 30 years. They are, in large part, responsible for the success of our practice. I

also want to thank Dr. Van Etta, Dr. Kitson, and Dr. Bietenholz. I could not have asked for more caring, talented and reliable partners. You will be in good hands in the years to come.

Although I am retiring from active practice, I plan to stay active in the dental profession, which I love, by volunteering at the Barnabas Dental Clinic. Shirley and I plan to travel more, spend more time with our grandchildren, and I plan on putting a lot of miles on my bicycle. We look forward to many more years of enjoying our life here in Fernandina.

Thank you again for your trust, confidence and support.

Ken Owens

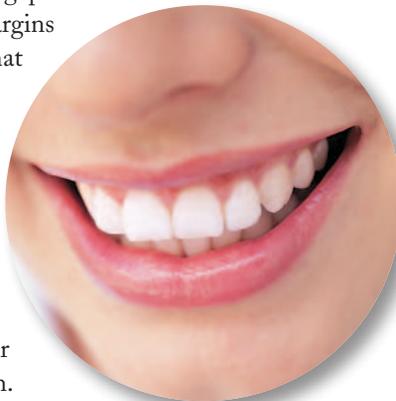
Fillings Aren't Forever

As part of your professional check-up we not only evaluate you for cavities, gum disease, and oral cancer, we also look at the condition of your existing fillings. Certain problems with a filling alert us that it needs immediate attention. Cracks, chips, and fractures of the filling may not be apparent to you, but in time will lead to sensitivity and new decay.

We often notice open margins in fillings. These are gaps that develop between the tooth and the filling. Open margins develop in the mouth much in the same way that "potholes" form in a street. Cold and hot foods cause the tooth and filling to expand and contract. When this occurs the edges of the filling can open or chip off, leaving a gap.

Staining sometimes occurs in tooth colored fillings from drinking tea, coffee and red wine or from smoking. These discolored fillings can be replaced with new materials that can be matched to the shade of your teeth, and enhance the natural appearance of your teeth.

Maintain your fillings through good home care. We'll make sure to look at your fillings closely when you visit us for your professional check-up.



Appointment Confirmation

We have recently updated some of the features on our dental software system. In the past automatic confirmation of your dental appointment was done by phone or by e-mail. We can now send appointment reminders via text messaging. We would like to use the form of confirmation that you like best. Please feel free to let us know which method you prefer. Contact Kellyn by phone at 261-7181 or by e-mail at hygiene@ameliadental.com.





Managed Dental Care and You

In today's world, the only constant is change. This is very true of the dental insurance coverage many employers offer.

There are really two kinds of dental coverage. The first is the "usual, customary, and reasonable" (UCR) fee plan which pays based on a predetermined/average fee schedule, and allows you to go to the dentist of your choice. The other type of insurance is a managed care coverage plan, called either a capitation or preferred provider plan.

If your employer asks you to make a switch to the managed care plan, think about it carefully. Here are some questions to ask your benefits representative before you make up your mind about dental insurance for your family's dental health:

1. Will the new dental plan restrict any ability to select the dentist of my choice? Will I be limited to a pool of contracted plan dentists or participating "preferred" dental providers?
2. What services were paid for under the UCR plan that the managed care option no longer covers. Look at the lists side by side, and ask someone to point out any exclusions or limitations.
3. Does the new plan restrict referrals to special dental service providers such as a participating orthodontist, periodontist, endodontist, or oral surgeon.
4. Will a third party influence dental health care decisions? This means that an insurance company clerk may disapprove payment for treatment your dentist believes you need and that the insurer should cover.
5. What changes in deductibles and co-payments will the new plan feature?

We would be happy to assist you with any questions you may have regarding your dental insurance options. Please call our office if you have any questions.

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