

***THE COMPREHENSIVE ORAL EVALUATION (COE)***  
***“A complete physical from the neck up!”***

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The Carriage Place Dental Centre is very excited to be implementing the COE. While we have always carefully examined your teeth, jaws, gums, and soft tissues for any problems at your regular continuing care appointments, the COE takes this exam to a new level. It involves:

--an extensive review of your medical and dental history.

--a panoramic X-ray, which captures the temporomandibular joints; upper and lower jaws; all of the teeth including the roots; the sinuses; etc. This allows us to diagnose many things we cannot detect through the usual clinical examination and the small X-rays, such as cysts, abscesses, impacted teeth, arthritic changes in the joints, sinus problems, etc.

--other X-rays will be prescribed on an individual patient basis as needed.

--a visual and digital examination of the lymph nodes in the head and neck area, as well as the lips, hard and soft palate, floor of the mouth, surfaces of the cheeks, and tongue. This constitutes a thorough oral cancer screening in addition to checking for other anomalies.

--a detailed charting of your periodontal condition, including probing depths, recession, furcation involvement, and tooth mobility.

--a detailed charting of the teeth, including existing fillings, decay, cracks, abscesses, etc.

--a video examination with the intraoral camera—a tour of your mouth as you’ve never seen before!

--a thorough examination of the temporomandibular joints, muscles of the head and neck, and your occlusion (bite) and function.

**\*\*\*\*This examination takes approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours\*\*\*\***

## ***WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF THE COE TO THE PATIENT?***

There is significant benefit to you because the information gathered allows us to tailor a periodontal maintenance (gum therapy) program specifically to your oral condition. Furthermore, we can compare the data gathered at subsequent appointments to evaluate how effective the program is in treating your periodontal condition and whether any changes need to be made. **This is more important than ever because numerous studies are demonstrating significant links between the chronic inflammation/low grade infection of periodontal disease and overall general health, especially with respect to heart disease, respiratory disease, diabetes, and pre-term, low birth weight babies. Brushing, flossing, and maintaining good oral hygiene could quite possibly prolong your life!**

The COE also allows us to design an overall restorative treatment plan that takes into account not only the condition of the teeth and gums, but also the function of the joints and muscles and the biting forces. This helps to ensure that any underlying issues that could result in premature failure of the planned dental work are not overlooked. For this reason, insurance companies recognize the benefits of a COE and usually provide coverage for one every five years.

Any patient would benefit from a COE because it allows us to plan for both short term and long term needs and goals; however, those with periodontal (gum) concerns or those with extensive restorative needs (such as implants, bridges or an aesthetic smile makeover) would find it especially helpful. If you have any questions about the COE, or if you would like to schedule an appointment, please feel free to approach any of our knowledgeable team members. They would be happy to assist you.