



# Dental Work Without the Stress

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## Does Affordable Dentistry Even Exist?

Does it ever seem like receiving dental care is a privilege reserved for the few?

When approximately [59% of American adults](#) say they don't go to the dentist for financial reasons, it certainly appears that quality dentistry is out of reach for the average Joe.

If you haven't gone to the dentist for some time, you're not the only one. On average, prices have risen by nearly twice the rate of inflation in recent years. That means that after paying rent, food, and bills, there's less money left over for other expenses. And if you don't hold a dental insurance policy— which is true of 74 million Americans— you might not know how you will pay for basic care like cleaning, let alone restorative procedures like a filling.

But the longer you go without that basic care, the higher the likelihood that you will need your teeth removed at some point. People who don't visit the dentist regularly don't receive treatment for gum disease or cavities in a timely manner, conditions which eventually lead to tooth loss. And tooth loss results in the need for dentures, or dental implants if you can afford them.

What if we told you that there is a way to access low-cost dental work NOW, before you've lost teeth? Or, that having lost a tooth, there are options for you to get a replacement that won't break the bank?

Penn Dental Medicine offers a full range of low-cost dental services, including dental care for adults without insurance. Procedures are performed by student dentists with oversight from top professionals at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. By operating in conjunction with the dental school, our care center can deliver services at a lower cost to the patient. And now, we are giving patients a free nutrition consultation when they come in for their first appointment.



We have extended hours for the convenience of patients who may have difficulty taking time off work to come in. Our schedule offers flexibility for a range of needs:

**Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:** 8 am to 5 pm

**Monday, Wednesday:** 8 am to 8 pm

Many patients opt for an early appointment before their work begins, at 8 am, while others schedule during the evening on Monday or Wednesday after their shift has ended. Scheduling an appointment to take place during your lunch break is also always an option. If you have particular restrictions in scheduling due to other responsibilities, please let us know when you call **(215-898-8965)** so that we can find a slot that will work for you.





## What Conditions Are Treated at Penn Dental Medicine?

Have you been experiencing dental pain in a specific tooth or area of your mouth? Do you see bleeding when you floss your teeth?

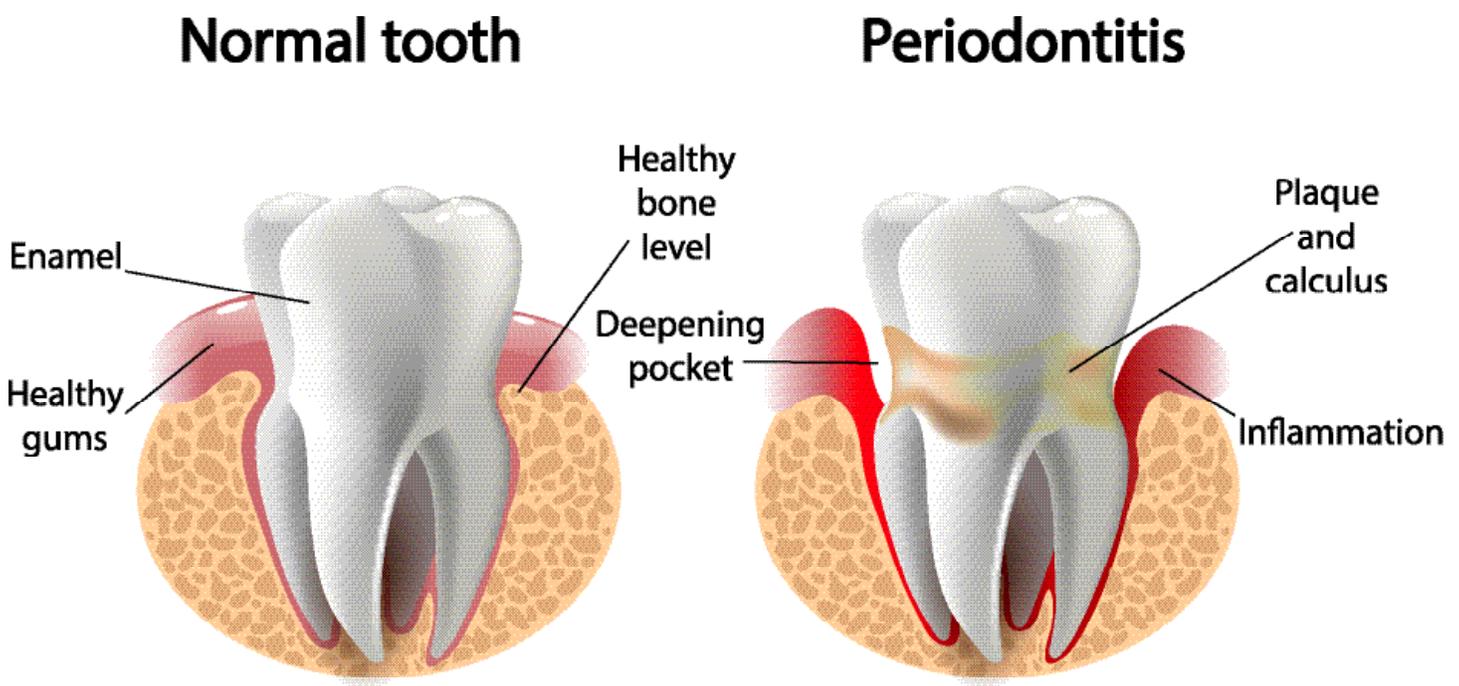
These are just a few common symptoms of conditions we treat at Penn Dental Medicine. When you get care early, you benefit from the least-expensive, most conservative treatments available. Meanwhile, the longer you wait to seek dental care, the higher the likelihood of requiring complex procedures. However, the good news is that because we offer a wide range of services at our offices, you likely won't have to go elsewhere if you do need specialty treatment.

Here are several conditions that we often see at Penn Dental Medicine:



## 1. Periodontitis.

Also known as gum disease, this bacterial condition involves gum inflammation. It starts out as gingivitis, which causes the gums to become red, swollen, and bleed easily. You should seek treatment as soon as you see these symptoms to prevent it from developing into periodontitis, the more serious form of the disease. Periodontitis makes the gums recede and pull away from the teeth, causing bacterial pockets to form.



A [periodontist](#) can help by providing prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of gum disease. Individuals who have just begun to experience oral inflammation can make a faster recovery with the targeted attention of a periodontist. Those who have more advanced cases can prevent potential tooth loss by receiving regular care. Treatments provided by periodontists include in-depth cleanings, pocket reduction, gum grafts, regenerative procedures, periodontal maintenance, and more.



## 2. Cavity.

A cavity is caused by dental decay, which occurs when bacteria boreholes in the teeth. Since dental decay can develop over a period of years, the severity of a cavity can vary. Treatment will differ depending on the degree of decay; for example, remineralization (fluoride treatment) can halt decay from progressing, and a filling may be used to repair the hole created by the cavity.

Unless your cavity has progressed to the inner tooth, a general dentist can usually treat this condition. General dentists provide preventive services such as cleaning and screening for potential problems. They also perform restorative treatments including fillings, crowns, bridges, dentures, and more. Should specialty care be required, your [general dentist](#) will direct you to the right specialty department at Penn Dental Medicine.

### THE STAGES OF TOOTH DECAY



### 3. **Tooth infection.**

When a cavity has reached the inner tooth, which is where the nerves are located, it's common to have severe, persistent pain. You might also experience this level of pain if a crack or fracture reaches the inner tooth. Don't ignore this toothache! Left untreated, a tooth infection or fracture can cause you to lose the tooth. Infection also puts you at risk for far-reaching damage, as the bacteria attempt to spread into the jawbone and other teeth.

An [endodontist](#) specializes in the treatment of conditions involving the inner tooth, whether from an accident or infection. If you are experiencing a toothache (which may turn into a generalized headache), you should seek out the services of an endodontist. In many cases, a tooth infection can be cleaned out by an endodontist so that the tooth is left intact. This procedure is known as root canal therapy, and it is the most effective way to save your tooth --avoiding the need for extraction.



#### 4. **Missing or damaged teeth.**

The above conditions can lead to chipped, broken, worn, or missing teeth. Whether you've lost a tooth due to decay or broke several teeth in an accident, you'll want to receive restorative treatment as soon as possible. Dental restoration involves both functional and cosmetic improvements, since fixing a dental problem also means restoring its appearance.

A [prosthodontist](#) is equipped to perform any procedure involving dental restoration or replacement. With additional years of advanced training after dental school, prosthodontists bring a deep knowledge of oral bone structure and dental technologies to provide sophisticated treatments. Penn Dental Medicine is one of the few institutions in the country to offer a prosthodontics program. That means that our patients enjoy access to a very highly specialized program but without paying the prices usually associated with these complex procedures. We encourage you to take advantage of our limited spots to receive advanced treatment from our student prosthodontists.



## 5. Crooked or misaligned teeth.

Oftentimes, the teeth simply do not come in the way they are supposed to, which can lead to chronic secondary dental problems. Orthodontic problems can take a variety of forms.

Overcrowding means that there are too many teeth growing in a space, causing tooth wear over time. Spaced-out teeth, meanwhile, can make your mouth more vulnerable to tooth decay as bacteria gather in the areas between the teeth. Crooked teeth similarly make it hard to keep the teeth clean and are more likely to break in the future. Finally, misaligned teeth (also known as malocclusion) refers to disproportion in the sizes of your upper and lower jaws. Misalignment can cause the teeth to shift over time and increase the risk for tooth decay. All of these conditions can be corrected through orthodontic treatment, which we offer at discounted rates at Penn Dental Medicine.

Our [orthodontics department](#) provides top-of-the-line treatment options, including traditional orthodontics and clear aligners. Traditional metal braces are most appropriate for patients who have severe orthodontic conditions and/or prefer the most affordable option available. Clear aligners (also known as invisible braces) are less noticeable than metal braces and offer greater flexibility – they can be removed at any time and do not involve dietary restrictions. Both treatment models are highly effective, permanent solutions for the orthodontic problems described above.



## Affordable Dental Work at Penn Dental Medicine

If you've ever avoided getting the dental care you need because of the price, it's time to change that. At Penn Dental Medicine, you can access treatment across a wide range of specialties while paying lower-than-market prices for the service rendered. In addition to the services above, we also provide [oral surgery](#), [pediatric dentistry](#), and [oral medicine](#). Our patients trust the Penn name and the high-quality care that we deliver. With student dentists overseen by some of the nation's top doctors, patients are just one step away from leading experts at the University of Pennsylvania.

If you'd like to experience care that's affordable, comfortable, and backed by experts, then give us a call at 215-898-8965. You can set up a consultation at a time that is convenient for you and know that we will be transparent about everything from treatment options to pricing plans.

Finally, we are offering a free nutrition consultation for first-time appointments when you mention this offer. Learn how to improve your oral and overall health from a certified nutritionist when you visit!

Fill out [this form](#) to be contacted by our scheduling team or just call 215-898-8965.