

#### **About our Doctor**

Dr. Salkeld was born and raised in Fort Wayne, IN. He attended Northrop High School then pursued higher education at DePauw University and Indiana University School of Dentistry. While in dental school he was selected to participate in the CAPSTONE PROGRAM -- a pilot program that helped restructure the dental schools' clinical program. He graduated in 1991. Dr. Salkeld practiced dentistry in the Fort Wayne, IN area until 2006. In the fall of 2006, he relocated his family to the Noblesville, IN area to establish a dental office. He is a general dentist and enjoys Dentures and Crowns and Bridges, Cosmetic & Aesthetic Dentistry, Oral Surgery, and Implant Dentistry.

He is committed to bringing the very best dentistry has to offer to his patients. This commitment is evident in his pursuit of higher education in the field of Dental Implants. This Advanced Implant Training has prepared Dr. Salkeld for the placement and restoration of Dental Implants. In March 2005, Dr. Salkeld received his Fellowship in the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI).

He is married to his beautiful wife - Erin. Together they have two sons named Connor (12) and Carson (7).

Dr. Salkeld is a member of the American Dental Association, Indiana Dental Association, and the Indianapolis District Dental Society, the International Congress of Oral Implantologists, the American College of Oral Implantology, and The American Society of Osteointegration.

## **Philosophy**

Welcome to our practice. We are happy you selected us for your dental needs. Our intent is to serve you in the best way possible. This statement of practice philosophy is some straight talk on how we accomplish that.

We don't believe in treating disease. That's like chasing without catching. Working as a team (that includes you) we will prevent dental problems. Our role is to teach you how to keep your smile for a lifetime. We want to establish a Lifetime Strategy for Dental Health.

There are two areas of your mouth we're concerned about. Obviously, one is the tooth. Not so obvious is our concern for the support for those teeth. This area has historically and traditionally been neglected. You know the old adage about seeing your dentist every six months??? Not true. You should see the hygienist every six months or whatever interval we decide is best for you. This is to protect the support for your teeth. This visit also reinforces the behavioral patterns necessary for keeping your teeth and gums healthy. By doing your part, you likely will need minimal dentistry. Should you need dental work, expect the best.

The Golden Rule application in dentistry is that we treat you like we would like ourselves treated. There is a saying good dentistry isn't expensive; neglect is. Actually good dentistry does cost money. We believe in the highest quality care. We use the best materials, state of the art equipment and the finest personnel and technicians available.

There is another saying A a rose is a rose is a rose; if you think this is true of dental practices you are going to be pleasantly surprised by the differences you'll find in our practice.

We want you to be involved in making your dental decisions and establishing your Lifetime Strategy for Dental Health. We believe in taking the time to talk. This practice is not a dental dictatorship; it is a working partnership between you and us. We are open to suggestions on what we can change or how we can help. I can promise that our office will always make any necessary changes for the better.

### **Dental Insurance**

Approximately 50% of our patients have dental insurance. If you and your family have dental insurance there are a few points about dental insurance we need to cover.

Most people have an inflated view of what their insurance is going to pay. This is especially true if it is a new policy. The fact is that most policies pay 90-100% of preventive procedures like exams, cleanings, x-rays, fluoride, etc., 60-70% of routine procedures like fillings and 50% of the more expensive type of dentistry like crowns and bridges. Most dental insurance does not cover dental implants. Keep in mind that most policies have a \$50.00 - \$100.00 deductible and a yearly maximum. Our office does not diagnosis dental disease based on a person's insurance coverage.

Our office does not determine these benefits. The type of plan chosen by your employer determines insurance benefits. We are not involved with the insurance carrier in any way. Since dental services are rendered directly to the patient, the patient is responsible to us for payment. The insurance company, of course, is responsible to the patient. To avoid disappointment, we strongly suggest that you contact your insurance company to make sure that your assumptions are correct.

Conscientious dentists have had problems. Most insurance companies have done a creditable job managing this growing industry. However, it has been the experience of many dentists that insurance companies tell their clients that certain dental fees are Aabove usual and customary rather than telling them that insurance benefits are low. Additionally, we know that some insurance companies do not upgrade fee schedules regularly, even with the cost of living index. They should but they don't. Therefore, it is logical, then that there may be an attempt to shift the responsibility. Remember that this is a benefit your employer has negotiated on your behalf.

Conscientious dentists are not too bothered by this; in fact, they consider it complementary and supportive of the caliber of dentistry they are producing.

This is not an "average" practice. This practice affords the patient the highest caliber of dentistry possible. Accordingly, the fees may be somewhat higher than what the insurance company might call the norm or usual. (They take the given geographic area- the high, low and in-between, and then average these figures. This average is the norm or usual and customary.)

As a courtesy to our patients, most insurance plans are welcome. Always have your insurance card available at the time of your appointment. If after 45 days we have been unable to receive payment from the insurance company, on your behalf, the claim will be deleted and a statement will be issued to you for the remaining balance. Follow-up with your insurance company will then be your responsibility. Our office does not file Pre-Treatment Estimates or Pre-Determination of Benefits with insurance companies. We will provide you with the necessary information so you can follow-up with your insurance company. This insurance procedure only delays treatment and increases the costs of dental treatment. Again, our office does not develop Lifetime Strategies for Dental Health based on available insurance coverage.

The estimated percentage of treatment costs that your insurance does not cover is always due when services are rendered. If the insurance payment varies from the anticipated coverage, any balance is your responsibility. In case of overpayment, we will gladly credit your account or refund the difference at your request.

### **Financial Policy**

Prior to your dental appointment, we strongly encourage you establish a dental budget that will allow us to develop a Lifetime Strategy for Dental Health. This concept is new to many individuals and is the most appropriate way to handle those unexpected bills. After all, quality dentistry can be expensive. A dental budget will help you establish a financial plan for the very best dental treatment available. We will develop a Lifetime Strategy for Dental Health, in order to complete all of your dental treatment.

As always, payment is expected the same day services are rendered. To make paying for your dental services easier, we do accept cash, personal checks, Visa, and MasterCard. For charges over \$1000, paid by cash or check, we are happy to offer a 5% discount for payment in full at the initial appointment that services are rendered. For larger Lifetime Strategies for Dental Health, we will gladly suggest financial arrangements. Currently, the office recommends one financial institution—CareCredit.

The estimated percentage of treatment costs that your insurance does not cover is always due when services are rendered. If the insurance payment varies from the anticipated coverage, any balance is your responsibility. In case of overpayment, we will gladly credit your account or refund the difference at your request.

Account balances 30 days & older will have a \$2.50 billing charge added to the balance. Accounts 60 days & older will have either a \$2.50 billing charge or 1 ½ %MPR, whichever is greater. There will be a \$25.00 fee for any check returned to us due to non-sufficient funds.

# **Scheduled Appointments**

Please call and let us know if you are going to be late for an appointment. This way we can tell you if we still have adequate time to complete that day's treatment or if rescheduling would be more appropriate. If we are running late, we will notify you within 10 minutes past your scheduled appointment and reschedule if necessary. Being chronically late for appointments will result in dismissal from our office.

We do require 24 hours notice if you are unable to keep one of your dental appointments. Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 per missed appointment charge. Failure to do so on two separate occasions will result in dismissal from our office.

### **New Patient Orientation**

New patients are integrated into our office two different ways.

The first is through emergency dental treatment. During an emergency appointment, we will address the cause of the emergency and attempt to resolve the complaint. Emergency appointment patients, of non-record, are required to pay in full the day that services are rendered. Our office reserves time for emergencies at 10:00 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. with a minimum of waiting. Once completed, the emergency patient is then rescheduled for our New Patient Orientation.

The New Patient Orientation is designed to start our relationship out in the correct manner. It is not unlike a physical at your physician's office. Our goal is to develop a Lifetime Strategy for Dental Health. This appointment lasts approximately 1 hour and consists of a medical history, a complete and thorough dental examination, a full series of x-rays and diagnostic models, if indicated. Once this appointment is accomplished, depending on the complexity of the case, we may reserve more time for a Records Review to discuss the findings of our exam. This allows us the time necessary to know your case by heart and develop an appropriate Lifetime Strategy for Dental Health. At this appointment, treatment costs and sequencing will be established and time will be reserved for your pending treatment. This method will avoid any confusion and misunderstandings often felt in a dental office. Furthermore, it allows you the opportunity to make sure you are in the right place.

The estimated percentage of treatment costs that your insurance does not cover is always due when services are rendered. We work with an independent financial arm called CareCredit. We can apply on your behalf and help you understand the program. If the insurance payment varies from the anticipated coverage, any balance is your responsibility. In case of overpayment, we will gladly credit your account or refund the difference at your request.

# **Location and Office Hours**

We are conveniently located in Hamilton Town Center between DSW Shoes and Men's Wearhouse. This is conveniently off I-69 at exit 10 in Noblesville, IN.

Our office is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday  $8:30 \, a.m. - 5:30 \, p.m.$ , Tuesday  $1 \, p.m. - 7 \, p.m.$  The office is closed during lunch  $- 12:30 \, p.m. - 1:30 \, p.m.$