



SCHWARTZ, ONG & SHEARER
ORTHODONTICS
NEWSLETTER

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The new trend in braces technology is called 'self-ligation'. This new type of brace has a 'gate' built in and replaces the need for the module or rubber ring that is usually placed and then replaced at each adjustment appointment. The gate holds the wire into the slot on each brace which produces a force on each individual tooth and results in tooth movement in the desired direction. This technology reduces friction and supposedly reduces treatment time. It also enables a longer interval between regular visits as forces are active over a longer period of time. We have started to use these brackets in most cases (Damon System from Ormco & Innovation-R/C from GAC International). The issue with these brackets for many patients will be that coloured modules are no longer required, but still can be used as decoration over the upper front teeth.

HICAPS

For patients with private Health Insurance, HICAPS (Health Industry Claims & Payments Service) has been in use in many dental practices since 1998. We were, indeed, to be one of the first practices to ENROL with dedicated lines placed in all of our practices way back last century (i.e. 1999).

We were subsequently informed that orthodontic services were NOT included on HICAPS due to problems with Item Numbers. On speaking with them recently, they are still uncertain as to if or when orthodontists will be included. We will keep you updated!!

We would like to encourage patients to use e-mail to contact us: admin@designerorthodontics.com.au We can answer most queries promptly and during our busy times, it means no waiting on the phone. If need be, we will call you back to save you time!!

GC Tooth Mousse

We stock GC Tooth Mousse for patients with 'white spot lesions' that persist after de-banding or whose oral hygiene is a concern during the course of treatment.

The active ingredient in GC Tooth Mousse is "recaident" a product developed at our dental school at the University of Melbourne under the auspices of the current Head of School, Professor Eric Reynolds. Recalcent is derived from milk casein and, as such, cannot be used on patients with a milk protein allergy (e.g. lactose intolerance).

Retainer Checks

We wish to remind all of our retainer patients that any removable 'plate' should be brought to each appointment. Retainer appointments are usually arranged every 3-4 months once the braces are removed and it is essential that you follow the routine as specified by your orthodontist.

During this retention phase of treatment, you will be advised should the 'wisdom' teeth require removal. There is usually a 9-12 month initial period of full-time wear (i.e. day & night) followed by night-time routine for a specified period.

Direct Debit or EFTPOS

As you may now be aware, we have recently introduced Direct Deposit payments. To ensure that your accounts are processed correctly, you MUST include your six-digit Patient Number along with the patient's surname. The Patient Number is located next to the patient's name in brackets on your invoice. By providing these details, it enables us to allocate your payment to the correct account.

Of course, payment of accounts can still be made via EFTPOS – either at our practices or over the telephone. Visa & Mastercard credit/debit cards are accepted. The CASH OUT facility is not available as we do not keep large amounts of cash on-site.

If you have any questions in this matter, please feel free to ask one of our friendly staff for assistance prior to using this facility.