

## Stahly Family Dentistry News—November 2009

Periodically this website will feature an article updating patients and website visitors on news in our practice. This edition will include several updates and news of interest from the past 12 months. Feedback and ideas from patients are always welcome. Questions or comments can be made by calling Ann in our business office or by e-mailing Dr. Jeff from this website. Simply click on the “contact us” link. Comments are always welcome.

There has been some confusion on the difference between a cleaning and treatment for periodontal disease. A regular tooth cleaning, or prophy, is done on healthy teeth and is usually performed every 6 months. The doctor does an exam and occasionally x-rays are done at this time to screen for dental disease. A majority of our patients fall into this category.

If it has been several years since a dental check-up, a condition of disease may be present in your gums. This disease process has varying stages and different treatments, depending on the severity. The goal in gum disease treatment is to get the gums back to health, where eventually a regular tooth maintenance schedule can be followed. This treatment is a different insurance code and has an increased cost compared to the regular cleaning. In our office, all conditions and treatments are explained thoroughly before treatment begins. Our goal is to work together with patients to regain or maintain optimal health.

### Sedation

If the prospect of an upcoming dental visit keeps you awake at night, then speak to us about sedation options available in our office. For certain patients, a pill taken either before arriving at the office or as soon as sitting in the dental chair may remove the cold sweat and anxious feelings. Dr. Stahly is a member of the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation and has training in using oral sedation in dentistry. Proper health histories and monitoring are also performed in our office. If fear is keeping you from receiving needed dental care, ask how we can help.

### Continuing Education

In the past 12 months, everyone in our office has participated in advanced training to better serve our patients and to keep up with the latest safety guidelines. In September and October all staff members and Dr. Jeff received their yearly OSHA training and bi-annual CPR recertification. Other staff courses include front office and insurance training, expanded duties for dental assistants, and computer software training. Dr. Jeff has recently completed a 2-day course on oral surgery and has taken courses on tooth colored fillings and implants in the past 6 months. The courses and training are enjoyable and enable Dr. Jeff and his staff to serve his patients with confidence and safety.