

2015 Updated dental benefit amounts

Effective January 1, 2015, Alberta Blue Cross has increased the amount your dentist is paid for eligible services claimed through your benefit plan.

For 2015, Usual and Customary dental fees have increased by a weighted average of 3.14 per cent over the 2014 levels.

These fees are based on recent claim data from actual marketplace billings of Alberta Blue Cross group dental plan participants by Alberta dental offices.

The Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees are the basis of payment for eligible dental claims through your plan. These rates are market-determined and reflect the fees accepted by most dental offices across Alberta today.

Understanding your dental benefit

In Alberta, individual dentists are able to set their own prices. This situation differs from that of many other provinces where dentists follow a fee guide established by provincial dental associations. As a result, dental offices across the province charge widely varying fees for dental services. Even though Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees provide the closest match to what most Alberta dentists are charging for services, you may face out-of-pocket costs—regardless of the basis of payment of claims or level of coverage provided through your dental plan.

Should your dental provider charge more than your plan allows, you will be responsible for the difference. You will also still be required to pay any co-pay or deductible amounts (where applicable) at the time of your appointment.

For your reference, the back of this page contains the 2015 Usual and Customary dental fees for 30 common dental procedures.

Access to information

All Alberta dental offices have quick and easy online access to the 2015 Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary fees, as well as to information about your dental coverage. Most offices submit claims online to Alberta Blue Cross right at the time of your appointment, which means you can know instantly if you have an outstanding balance.

Learn more about your benefits by visiting the mobile-friendly Alberta Blue Cross member services site at www.ab.bluecross.ca and clicking "Sign in."



2015 Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees: common practices

Please consult your plan contract or benefit booklet for full information on any co-payment levels required by your plan.

<u>Service description</u>	<u>2015 amount</u>	<u>Service description</u>	<u>2015 amount</u>
Complete examination (New patient—all permanent teeth).....	\$107.63	Four surface amalgam (silver) filling—permanent molar	\$223.00
Recall examination (checkup).....	\$70.80	Two pins for filling.....	\$45.00
One x-ray (periapical).....	\$29.00	Three surface composite (white) filling— permanent anterior tooth.....	\$192.00
Three X-rays (periapical)	\$65.00	Two surface composite (white) filling—permanent bicuspid	\$202.00
Two X-rays (bitewing)	\$47.00	One surface composite (white) filling—permanent molar.....	\$152.40
Four X-rays (bitewing).....	\$84.46	Porcelain fused to metal crown.....	\$899.41*
Panoramic (whole mouth) X-ray.....	\$93.00	Lab processed veneer.....	\$826.53*
Polishing (up to 15 minutes).....	\$66.00	Root canal therapy (three roots).....	\$1,146.00
Scaling (removal of tartar, up to 15 minutes).....	\$70.34	Root planing (removal of tartar, etc. from roots; up to 30 minutes).....	\$150.00
Fluoride.....	\$32.95	Complete upper denture.....	\$839.00*
Pit and fissure sealant (first tooth).....	\$34.00	Pontic for fixed bridge (to replace missing tooth).....	\$439.00*
Pit and fissure sealant (each additional tooth, same area).....	\$17.85	Retainer (crown) for fixed bridge.....	\$909.00*
Two surface amalgam (silver) filling—primary tooth	\$136.00	Uncomplicated tooth removal (first tooth).....	\$132.00
Three surface amalgam (silver) filling— permanent anterior tooth/bicuspid.....	\$179.00	Uncomplicated tooth removal (each additional tooth in same area)	\$125.00
Two surface amalgam (silver) filling—permanent molar.....	\$148.00	Tooth removal—complete bone coverage	\$382.00

* plus lab fees



We're here to help!

If you have any questions about your dental benefits, please call Alberta Blue Cross Customer Services at
**780-498-8000 (Edmonton and area),
403-234-9666 (Calgary and area), or
1-800-661-6995 (toll free).**

Examples of Usual and Customary Dental Fees for some typical services

Adult checkup (recall/cleaning)\$357.43

Recall exam, two bitewing radiographs, two time units scaling, one time unit polishing, fluoride

Restoration ("filling")\$268.00

Four surface amalgam (silver) filling, permanent molar, two pins for filling

Three-unit bridge\$2,257.00*

Retainer (crown) for fixed bridge, pontic for fixed bridge (to replace missing tooth), retainer (crown) for fixed bridge

Crown \$1,075.41*

Porcelain fused to metal crown,
Post—cast metal

* plus lab fees



*The Blue Cross symbol and name are registered marks of the Canadian Association of Blue Cross Plans, an association of independent Blue Cross plans. Licensed to ABC Benefits Corporation for use in operating the Alberta Blue Cross Plan. ABC 83323 u&c 2014/12