

Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees

Usual and Customary (U&C) dental fees will remain unchanged for 2019. The Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees are the basis of payment for eligible dental claims through your plan. These fees are aligned with the fees contained in the Alberta Dental Association and College (ADA&C) provincial fee guide.

IF MY PLAN SAYS I HAVE 100 PER CENT COVERAGE, WHY AM I STILL PAYING OUT OF POCKET?

The Alberta Dental Association and College (ADA&C) developed a provincial fee guide in 2018 to begin to create standard fees for dental services throughout Alberta. Because this guide remains voluntary, dental offices across the province often charge very different fees for dental services.

It's important to understand that dental providers can charge more than what your plan pays. This means that if your plan states that you have 100 per cent dental coverage, your plan will pay 100 per cent of the U&C fees, but not necessarily 100 per cent of what the dentist charges—and you will be required to pay the difference.

WHAT CAN I DO TO GET THE MOST OUT OF MY BENEFITS WHEN I VISIT MY DENTIST?

- Because different dentists can charge very different fees for dental services, it's important to be as informed as possible before getting dental work done.

Here are some things you can do to be the best dental consumer possible:

- Visit dentalhealthalberta.ca and search for “fee guide.” This will allow you to view the ADA&C suggested fees for any dental procedure.
- Ask your dentist if they charge according to the “Alberta Dental Association and College fee guide.” This will give you an idea of whether or not your dentist is charging the fees recommended in the ADA&C guide.
- Most dentists are able to electronically submit a predetermination to Alberta Blue Cross prior to your appointment. This allows your dental provider to check how much your plan pays for dental procedures and how much, if anything, you would have to pay out-of-pocket. Most predeterminations are processed instantly!

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

For your reference, the back of this page contains the 2019 ADA&C fees for the 30 most common dental procedures.

THE 2019 ADA&C FEE GUIDE – COMMON PROCEDURES

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

Examples of ADA&C for some typical services	
	ADA&C
Adult checkup (recall/cleaning)	\$332.42
Recall exam, two images (bitewing), two time units scaling, one time unit polishing, fluoride.	
Restoration (“filling”)	\$289.87
Four surface amalgam (silver) filling—permanent molar, two pins for filling.	
Three-unit bridge	\$2,243.90*
Retainer (crown) for fixed bridge, pontic for fixed bridge (to replace missing tooth), retainer (crown) for fixed bridge.	
Crown	\$825.44*
Porcelain fused to metal crown.	

* 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:

Edmonton and area 780-498-8000

Calgary and area 403-234-9666

Toll-free 1-800-661-6995

Service description	Maximum amount
Complete examination (new patient—all permanent teeth)	\$101.48
Recall examination (checkup)	\$64.19
One image (periapical)	\$27.60
Three images (periapical)	\$67.40
Two images (bitewing)	\$45.08
Four images (bitewing)	\$78.37
Panoramic image (whole mouth)	\$88.32
Polishing (up to 15 minutes)	\$59.84
Scaling (removal of tartar, up to 15 minutes)	\$67.16
Fluoride	\$28.99
Pit and fissure sealant (first tooth)	\$32.63
Pit and fissure sealant (each additional tooth, same area)	\$16.32
Two surface amalgam (silver) filling—primary tooth	\$128.80
Three surface amalgam (silver) filling—permanent anterior tooth/bicuspid	\$188.29
Two surface amalgam (silver) filling—permanent molar	\$140.76
Four surface amalgam (silver) filling—permanent molar	\$242.48
Two pins for filling	\$47.39
Three surface composite (white) filling—permanent anterior tooth	\$187.57
Two surface composite (white) filling—permanent bicuspid	\$199.38
One surface composite (white) filling—permanent molar	\$149.60
Porcelain fused to metal crown	\$825.44*
Lab processed veneer	\$825.44*
Root canal therapy (three roots)	\$1,127.65
Root planing (removal of tartar, etc. from roots; up to 30 minutes)	\$145.36
Complete upper denture	\$810.00*
Pontic for fixed bridge (to replace missing tooth)	\$438.90*
Retainer (crown) for fixed bridge	\$902.50*
Uncomplicated tooth removal (first tooth)	\$134.33
Uncomplicated tooth removal (each additional tooth in same area)	\$134.33
Tooth removal—complete bone coverage	\$479.00

* plus lab fees



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