

Diamond House 16 Point Dental Examination

At Diamond House we offer a comprehensive 16 point examination:

1 Check medical questionnaire

We use the questionnaire to check for side effects or dental complications and to ensure any dental treatment is carried out safely.

2 Thorough oral cancer screening

Almost 5500 new cases of oral cancer are diagnosed each year and unfortunately prognosis of survival from oral cancer is poor. The great news is that when oral cancer is detected early, especially by the dentist, the survival rate is excellent.

3 Gum examination

Gum disease is the most common disease in the world and affects over 75% of people in the UK. Gum disease is far more serious than bleeding gums and foul breath. It is linked to the following conditions, some of which can be very harmful: tooth loss, heart disease, diabetes, low birth weight and premature babies, osteoporosis, respiratory disease (especially pneumonia) and cancers.

4 Jaw Joint examination

It is estimated that 47% of the population have had a headache in the last year with more than 10% having reported a migraine. Many of these cases can be treated by the dentist without the need for painkillers and anti-depressants. Many headaches are caused by Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction (TMJD) which can be diagnosed and treated by an appropriately trained dentist.

5 Tumour screening

Not all growths and tumours are cancer, many are benign. On examination, your dentist will do a detailed assessment of your head and neck muscles, bone and soft tissues to identify if there are any non-cancerous growths that need to be removed, so that you can be confident your mouth, head and neck are healthy.

6 Perform a dental questionnaire

Every patient is different, with different expectations and needs from their dental care. We will always treat you as an individual. Not, for example, as a patient with just another tooth that needs fixing. To ensure we can design the best treatment (unique to your requirements), the dentist will ask questions about your past dental care, your current needs and your long term aims. In short, they will strive to get to know you as a person.

7 Tooth examination

Tooth decay is the most common dental problem affecting teeth. 31% of adults and a third of young children at age 6 are affected. Tooth decay can cause pain and infection and in the extreme it can even be fatal, if left untreated. The good news is that tooth decay is 100% preventable. In addition to decay we will check for tooth wear, erosion, fracture and cracks so that you can be certain any problems will be identified early and the need for treatment will be minimised. On your tooth examination we will also check for dental abnormalities, spaces, missing teeth and tooth alignment. A full complement of aligned teeth will ensure a great smile so that you can eat, speak and be confident, as well as allowing for easier maintenance.

8 Assess the occlusion (bite)

Your occlusion is how your teeth fit together when you close your mouth and how they move across one another when you slide side to side. The occlusion is closely related to TMJD (Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction), headaches and migraines. If the bite is incorrect it is likely to increase your risk of tooth fracture and localised gum disease.

9 Review all existing treatment

Dental treatment such as crowns, bridges, dentures, implants and root canal work will not last forever and will need to be replaced, renewed or updated. Early detection of wear or damage to your teeth will simplify treatment and reduce costs.

10 Cosmetic appearance

We will check the appearance of your teeth looking at specific aspects including: shape, colour, fractures and unsightly fillings, then we will seek to provide solutions that are non or minimally invasive.

11 Assess your risk factors

There are many aspects of your lifestyle that predict your likelihood to experience disease and influence your prognosis and ability to heal. These are known as your risk factors. Once we have full awareness of your risk factors and disease experience we will decide whether you are a high, medium or low risk for certain conditions such as decay, gum disease, jaw joint dysfunction etc. Once identified, we will propose a personal preventative plan and liaise closely with the hygienists to help lower your risks and minimise the need for dental treatment in the future. At Diamond House we pride ourselves in being a minimally invasive and a highly preventative dental practice.

12 Radiographs

Even with the most sophisticated diagnostic tools one cannot see between the teeth, under crowns or below the bone. To be confident that there is no dental problem or disease we would recommend taking dental radiographs (xrays) at regular intervals depending on the number of fillings you have. This allows for early detection of dental disease before pain or fracture occurs, making treatment options simpler than waiting until the problem is more significant and obvious.

13 Advise and explain all findings

All findings are explained in detail and the appropriate advice will be given.

14 Provide a personal treatment plan

Your Personal Plan will be discussed at your appointment, providing you with an outline of the number of visits needed and the length of your appointments, the defined treatment options and a breakdown of costs.

15 Provide a personal preventative plan

This Plan will advise you on how we can help you to keep your mouth healthy and attractive.

16 Future examinations and hygiene visits

We will discuss how often dental examinations and hygiene visits are recommended, ensuring that this is personally tailored to your dental needs.