

Different Types of X-rays

X-rays are an important part of a dental examination. X-rays are ordered by the dentist to check for disease. There are many different types that are taken in different situations. Without adequate x-rays we may miss disease since we do not have x-ray vision.



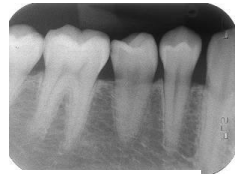
Pano example

Panoramic (pano): this is an x-ray that goes all the way around the head. Other structures besides the teeth are captured including the jaw joint, some sinuses, and others. This is an important x-ray to evaluate wisdom teeth, check on jaw joint anatomy, and in the case of children visualizing developing teeth. It gives a very good overview of the mouth but is not close enough to see all details around teeth. Sometimes insurance companies will need this to approve dentures or partial dentures.

Bitewings (BWV): 2 – 4 are taken for children and 4 for adults. These x-rays are taken to check for cavities between the teeth and to assess bone levels around teeth. These x-rays are taken once every 12 months on average once the back teeth are touching. If the risk for cavities is low, we can push them back to about every 18 months unless there are signs of the environment of the mouth changing. These are sometimes taken in emergency appointments as well to help determine if a tooth is restorable.



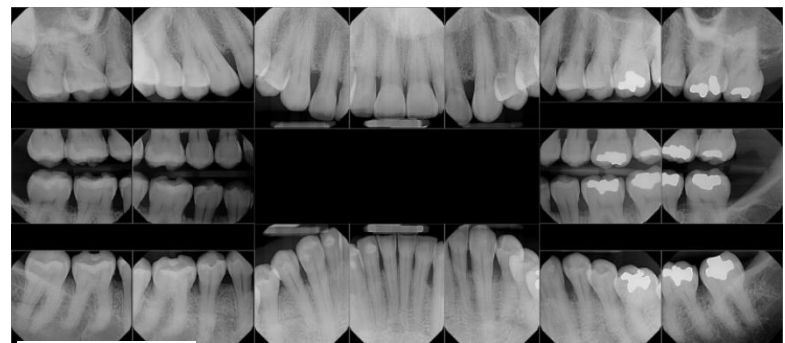
BWV example



PA example

Periapical (PA): this is typically a single image taken to look at a specific tooth or two. This is a single close-up image. These are often taken for emergency appointments. Sometimes insurance companies will need this to approve a crown.

Full mouth series (FMX): this is a series of about 18 different x-rays. A FMX includes BWV and the others are individual PAs. Every tooth is captured from the crown of the tooth which you can see in the mouth to the bottom of the tooth in the jawbone. This is a close-up of all the teeth to check for disease. This is the radiograph of choice for patients who have periodontal disease to be able to see the bone levels around teeth. If a patient is at high risk for cavities, we will often choose this set of x-rays to check on the extent of cavities on front teeth as well.



FMX example

Elder Fund



Bad River tribal members that are established dental patients aged 55 + that live within our contract health service area (Ashland and Iron counties) may be eligible for the elder fund. This is a pot of money that is set aside for Bad River elders to help cover costs of indirect services – services that would require payment if insurance does not cover the cost of treatment. These are typically services that we send to a lab and there is a lab fee. The elder fund can alleviate the financial burden for elders and increase their access to care.

The elder fund can be used to fabricate a set of complete dentures, upper and lower partials, or even a crown or two. The amount per patient is limited to be able to help as many elders as possible. When the money is used up for the year, it is gone and we will not be able to offer the elder fund until the next fiscal year. A patient who is not established and has a dental home elsewhere is not eligible for the elder fund.

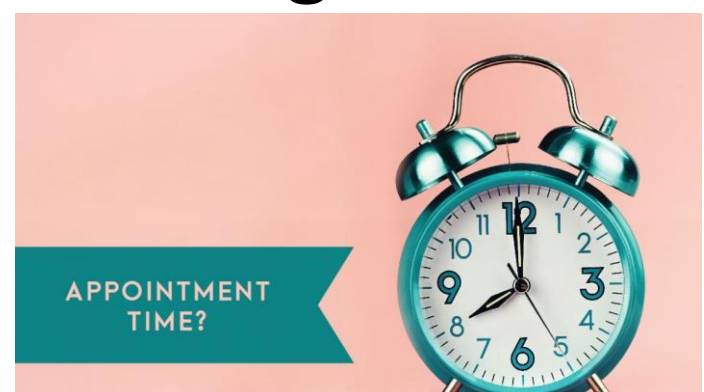
Importance of Showing up & Being on Time

The Bad River Health and Wellness Center dental, medical, and chiropractic departments implemented a policy for broken appointments that was put into place last year. This policy is intended to improve efficiency within our departments.

An appointment is considered broken if you do not show up, show up 10 minutes or later than your scheduled appointment time, or cancel an appointment with less than 24-hour notice. Three broken appointments within a 6-month period will cause you to be ineligible to book an appointment for 6 months. The ER walk-in clinic is still available for toothaches for patients unable to schedule appointments.

If you show up for an appointment 10 minutes or more past your appointment time our providers may not be able to accommodate seeing you. There may not be enough time to complete everything we had planned or it may cause us to get behind and affect other patients' appointments if we run over. Everyone's time is valuable and we want to respect everyone's time. It is not fair for us to push back the remainder of our patient's appointments to see a patient who shows up 10 minutes or more after their scheduled appointment time, especially if our other patients are on time for their appointments.

It is best to arrive 10 – 15 minutes early in case there is any paperwork that needs to be completed so your appointment can start on time.

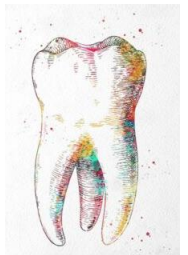


Normal business hours 8:00 – 4:30 PM
Monday – Friday
Closed for tribal holidays.

Upcoming closure dates:
2/19/24, 3/29/24 PM, 4/1/24,
5/27/24

Direct dental phone number:
(715)685-7887

Services we offer:



Call us with any questions or to schedule your appointment today!

- Comprehensive and periodic exams to monitor your oral health with radiographs
- Prophylaxis: regular dental cleanings
- Sealants: protective covering in deep pits/grooves of teeth to help prevent cavities
- SRP: scaling and root planning, aka “deep cleanings” for patients with periodontal disease
- Fillings: removal and replacement of cavities, replacement of missing tooth structure
- Root canals: removal of nerve within the tooth with a filling put inside tooth
- Extractions: pulling teeth
- Biopsies: testing of suspicious tissue
- Invisalign: removable trays to align teeth
- Whitening trays: trays that fit over teeth to put whitening gel in
- Crowns: full coverage restoration of teeth, aka “caps”
- Implant crowns: caps over screws that are placed in the jaw
We are not placing implants
- Brides/fixed partial dentures: full coverage restorations that stay in your mouth with pontics or “hanging teeth” to fill in a space or two
- Removable partial dentures: prosthesis that is removed nightly to replace teeth
- Complete dentures: full set of fake teeth that you remove nightly
- Other miscellaneous surgeries

As an IHS clinic we offer our direct services at no charge to tribal members from any reservation regardless of insurance status.

Direct services include things that we do directly at our clinic: exams, cleanings, fillings, root canals, and pulling teeth.

Services that have a fee include things we need to send off to a lab such as: crowns, bridges, partials, dentures, Invisalign



Crown



Bridge/fixed partial denture



Removable partial denture



Complete dentures



Example of dental emergency with lower right side of the face swelling from infected tooth.

Please bring a current medication list!

Bad River Dental has an emergency walk in clinic. If you have emergency needs such as facial swelling or uncontrollable pain, we encourage you to come in from 12:30 – 3:00 Monday – Friday on days the tribe is open. Once here, you will be evaluated and seen based on severity.

If you have an urgent need such as a broken tooth without pain, please call us at (715)685-7887. If no answer, feel free to leave a voicemail.

Dental fun fact:

When we are ready to take a tooth out of the jaw, we utilize a tool called “forceps” to grip it.

Ojibwe dental word of the month:

tooth extraction =
bakwadaabidebinaa (ganiwi-
manaabidebinaa(ganiwi))

Please email v.gokee@badriverhwc.com with any questions or topics you would like addressed in next month’s issue! All submissions will remain anonymous.

Dental emergency vs a dental urgency

Emergency patient: someone in need of immediate care and attention. Emergent needs include: significant pain, noticeable swelling on the face, difficulty opening their mouth and/or someone who has sustained trauma to the face within the past 24 hours.

If you have trouble breathing, swallowing your own spit, or swelling below the jawbone please go to the ER.

Urgency patient: someone in need of swift dental intervention. Urgent needs include: front tooth chip, broken dentures, lost crown/temporary on teeth without root canals, or need for medical clearance for surgery. These appointments can be scheduled and do not need to walk-in. Feel free to walk in, but emergent needs will be seen first.

For patients who have not established care please walk in for these needs as well, just know there may be a wait since emergent needs will be seen first.

Miigwech for reading, please be on the lookout for our next monthly issue!

