

For Patients

About Dental Emergencies



What to expect

Once the dentist reviews your situation over the phone, he or she may meet you right away or see you as soon as possible during regular office hours. He or she may also refer you to another dentist or to your local hospital if appropriate.

The dentist may tell you things you can do at home to help ease your symptoms and may also prescribe medication by phone. It is important to follow the instructions given to you.

Patients can also contact HealthLink BC by visiting www.HealthLinkBC.ca online or by phoning 8-1-1. This 24-hour-a-day service gives you easy access to non-emergency health and dental information and services. You will be able to speak to a registered nurse about your symptoms, get more details about your condition or speak to a pharmacist about your medication questions.

Preventing dental emergencies

Not all dental emergencies can be prevented but you can take steps to reduce problems that can lead to an emergency.

- Practice good oral hygiene and see a dentist regularly
- See a dentist as soon as pain or problems start — before they become severe
- Wear protective equipment like mouth guards and helmets when playing sports
- Wear seatbelts while riding in a car

More information about dental emergencies

B.C. Dental Association

www.bcdental.org

College of Dental Surgeons of BC

www.cdsbc.org/dental_emergencies

Canadian Dental Association

www.cda-adc.ca/en/oral_health/complications/emergencies/index.asp

American Dental Association

www.ada.org/public/manage/emergencies.asp

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