Why See a Nurse Practitioner at my Dental Appointment?

A Nurse Practitioner (NP) in a dental office brings the focus from strictly oral health to overall health. For the patient it is an opportunity to see two healthcare professionals in a single visit. Working in an inter-professional environment will improve clinical skills and expand knowledge for both the nurse practitioner and dental students. Good oral health promotes good overall health and vice versa.

An estimated 23.1 million Americans report visiting a dental provider and not a primary care provider in the same year.

What is a Nurse Practitioner?

Also called an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), the Nurse Practitioner holds a doctorate or master's degree in nursing and is nationally board certified to diagnose and treat health conditions. Nurse Practitioners are licensed to practice independently in Iowa.

Do you have your Medicare Card with you?

Make sure you bring your medical insurance information to your dental appointment.

See a Nurse Practitioner at your dental appointment!

The Nurse Practitioner Clinic for Primary Health and Dental Care brings nurse practitioner students, dental students and faculty together to provide chairside primary care to the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

See a Nurse Practitioner at your dental appointment!

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During your dental appointment, you will be offered the opportunity to see a Nurse Practitioner.

Here are some reasons you might want to see a nurse practitioner:

- You would like a comprehensive wellness exam (this is free if you have Medicare Part B)
- You do not have a primary care provider that you see on a regular basis
- You have a primary care provider, but have not visited them in over a year
- You have a question about your medications
- You would like your ears assessed for wax removal
- You would like your toenails trimmed
- You have an age-spot or mole that needs to be looked at and/or removed
- You would like your blood sugar checked
- You would like your blood pressure checked
- You would like to quit smoking
- You would like to lose weight
- You need a referral to a medical specialist
- You have a question about available community services

Dr. Larry Newman earned his Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) from the University of Iowa College of Nursing. Dr. Newman is a board certified adult/geriatric primary care nurse practitioner. He is the Adult/Geriatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program Director at the University of Iowa College of Nursing. He started this project with the guidance of Dr. Howard Cowen and a generous grant from Delta Dental Foundation of Iowa.

Cailey Anderson is spending her third year as an adult/geriatric primary care nurse practitioner doctoral student learning in the Nurse Practitioner Dentist Primary Care Clinic. She also works as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) while attending school.

Kristen Flick is in the last semester of her Master of Social Work degree at the University of Iowa School of Social Work, and is completing her Advanced Practicum at the College of Dentistry. While working at the College of Dentistry, Kristen works with patients securing transportation to appointments, finding and following up with community resources, and identifying other patient needs with which she can help.

In addition to a nurse practitioner at the College of Dentistry, Dr. Newman also has Social Work and Pharmacy students working and developing interprofessional practice and education. Ask the nurse practitioner to meet with the social worker if you have questions about community services.