

Dental care

If you do not have enough knowledge of Swedish you are entitled to have an interpreter. Ask for an interpreter when you make an appointment.

Your mouth and teeth need your own help and our help to remain in good condition. The National Dental Service, *Folktandvården*, will help you with various aspects of oral hygiene, and together with you, we can find individual solutions to suit your dental care.

The National Dental Service has clinics for general dental care, hospital dental care and specialist dental care.

You can choose the dental clinic and dentist that you want in the National Dental Service.

We have dental practices throughout the county. More than half of the county's inhabitants have chosen to use the National Dental Service. We have about 630 employees who treat more than 150,000 patients per year.

You will find us listed in the telephone directory on the yellow and blue pages, under Tandläkare, see Folktandvården.

General dental care

We have 32 general dental practices throughout the county. If you want to use the National Dental Service, contact a general dental practice, where you will receive help with preventive care, examinations and treatment. Our clinics are connected to the National Insurance Office's payment system, which means that part of your dental care costs will be paid by the Social Insurance Office (Försäkringskassan). The National Dental Service has a price list that applies to all dental practices.

Do you want to be a patient? Register at the dental practice you want to go to. Visit the website www.lio.se and look under Tandvård.

Specialist dental care

The county council, *Landstinget*, is responsible for specialist dental care in the county. Specialist dental care complements general dental care and private dental care. You will always need a referral from a general dental practice or a private dentist.

People who have severe facial deformities and patients who need advanced jaw surgery to treat damage to teeth and jaw injuries can receive treatment from specialists at the jaw clinic, *Käkkliniken*, at Linköping University Hospital, *Universitetssjukhuset i Linköping*. Patients from other counties are also referred to the hospital. There are several specialist dental care clinics in the county. They specialise in oral prosthetics (dentures), periodontology (toothloosening diseases), oral function and physiology (jaw problems), root treatment, rectification of tooth irregularities and paedodontics, which is treatment of severe caries problems in children.

The specialist dental care service also conducts research and development of new treatment methods as well as continuing and further training of personnel in the National Dental Service.

Hospital dental care

Patients treated in hospital dental care are often patients at risk as regards dental care due to illness and medication. The hospital dental care in Östergötland is located at clinics in Åleryd and at Linköping University Hospital, the hospital in Motala and the Vrinnevisjukhuset hospital in Norrköping. The clinics have staff with specialist knowledge to treat problems in the oral cavity in cancer patients, road accident victims, geriatric patients and patients with infectious diseases. There are also dental clinics where staff are specially trained to give dental care to people with learning difficulties and to mentally ill patients.

Emergency dental care

Contact your own dentist first or ring *Folktandvården's* on-call service on the emergency services telephone number: 112. On weekdays 08.00-16.00, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays 08.00-14.00 you will be directed to your nearest on-call dentist.

Serious damage to teeth and jaw injuries

If you have serious damage to teeth and jaw injuries and your condition is an emergency, you can get treatment at the jaw clinic, *Käkkliniken*, at Linköping University Hospital.

Afraid of going to the dentist? Ring 020-86 19 19 for help.

Do you think that it is unpleasant to go to the dentist? You are not alone! One in ten adults in Sweden are afraid of going to the dentist to some degree. This feeling is experienced by both men and women, young and old. There are several dental care teams in the National Dental Service in the county who work specially with people who fear going to the dentist. These teams have various types of knowledge – from good psychological care to the option of using hypnosis, nitrous oxide or anaesthesia.

Private dentists

Their names are listed in the county council directory, *landstingskatalogen*, and on the yellow pages in the Eniro telephone directory.

Fees

The cost of a visit to the dentist depends on what treatment you receive.

Free dental care for children and young people

You can choose either a dentist in *Folktandvården* [Sweden's National Dental Service] or a private dentist.

New residents and parents whose children will soon be three years old will receive written information on this choice. You can change your choice at any time. All routine dental care, including specialist dental care, is free of charge for everyone until their 19th birthday. However you must pay for treatment that is not considered necessary for clear dental health reasons.

Fees for adults

The care provider decides the price of the dental care. The amount paid by *Försäkringskassan* [the Social Insurance Office] will already have been deducted, and you pay the remaining cost.

Mobile dental care and emergency dental care for the elderly and physically disabled

Since 1999 the elderly and physically disabled with a major need for personal nursing are entitled to receive free mobile dental care, which includes an individual oral health assessment.

As a patient you pay the following fees for dental treatment that is considered necessary. The fees apply per occasion when you are treated:

by a general dentist SEK 150

by a specialist dentist SEK 300

by a dental nurse/hygienist SEK 100

The fees are covered by the *Högekostnadskort* [high cost card] discount scheme in the same way as patient fees paid in outpatient health care. When a patient has paid a total of SEK 900 in health care fees and/or dental care fees, care for the rest of the 12-month period is free of charge.

You can choose between dental care from Folktandvården [Sweden's National Dental Service] and private dental care, because fees in both are covered by the high cost card discount scheme.

The people entitled to dental care covered by the discount scheme are those who:

- live in special accommodation
- receive extensive health care in their own homes
- are covered by the Act Concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments; legislation known in Swedish as LSS-lagen
- live in their own homes and have needs for medical care and nursing that are comparable to those of the above groups

A certificate must be issued for these people by staff in the municipality's elderly and disabled services. Staff working at vårdcentraler [health care centres], in psychiatric care, rehabilitation and at certain hospital clinics can also issue certificates. The county council will issue a dental health card on the basis of this certificate.

Dental care as part of short-term treatment for illness during a limited period

Dental care forms part of the treatment of certain illnesses. The treating doctor, in consultation with dental services, decides whether such dental care is required. In these cases, the treating doctor must send a referral to dental services. As a patient you pay the same fees as for emergency dental treatment for the elderly and physically disabled.

Jaw surgery

In treatments involving jaw surgery, dental care fees are payable for most treatments. These include the removal of wisdom teeth, for example. For certain types of complicated oral surgery you pay the same fee as when visiting a doctor at a hospital, in other words, SEK 300.

Extreme fear of going to the dentist

If you are extremely afraid of going to the dentist, you can receive help from a psychologist before the dental treatment starts. This help is part of a way of treating your fear. You will pay a patient fee according to the rate for dental care that is part of short-term treatment for an illness during a limited period. Talk to your dentist for more information.

Rights at the dentist's

You are entitled to receive a quotation (cost estimate) before the treatment starts, but the dentist will charge you for the examination and assessment. The dentist must inform you of your dental health and of what treatment methods are available.