

ADVICE FOR THE TRANSFERRING ORTHODONTIC PATIENT

An orthodontist is a dental specialist that has received an additional two to three years of specialized training beyond dental school. Your orthodontist has given you this form because you will be transferring your orthodontic care to a new orthodontist. The American Association of Orthodontists has several suggestions to make your orthodontic transfer easier for you. Please be aware that you may be charged a records duplication fee because of this transfer.

1. Your current orthodontist may have given you the name of one or more orthodontists in your new area. Your orthodontist may have even contacted the orthodontist(s) to see if they will accept transfer patients. However, this does not constitute a recommendation by your orthodontist, and you are under no obligation to continue treatment with a specific orthodontist. You are welcome to visit one or more orthodontists in your new area before deciding who will continue your treatment.
2. Because there are many accepted techniques and philosophies, your new orthodontist may change your treatment plan or appliances. Variation in how your teeth and jaws are responding to your orthodontic treatment may require a change in your treatment plan.
3. Orthodontic treatment fees vary widely throughout the country and the world. It is reasonable to expect that a transfer may increase treatment fees and may involve changes in payment policies. For most people who transfer during their orthodontic treatment, the total treatment cost is likely to increase.
4. When you transfer to a new orthodontist, your treatment time is often extended by the process of transfer. It is reasonable to expect that your treatment time will vary from the original prediction.
5. When you have identified your new orthodontist, you should contact your former orthodontist to request that your records be transferred. Your new orthodontist will then contact your former orthodontist for any additional information needed.