

## Loose Band/Bracket Policy

Loose appliances are a part of orthodontic treatment. Appliances that can become loose during your treatment include bands and brackets. We understand that accidents happen. Sometimes you might receive trauma to your mouth during sports or while playing, or maybe you decided that it would not hurt to “cheat” a little and eat something hard or sticky. Occasionally, some patients even decide to see how strong an appliance is by munching on a pen or pencil or some other hard object. Sometimes a bracket seems to come loose while you are eating something soft or are just sitting around. This only happens if you already loosened the bracket earlier but it did not fully separate from your tooth.

The average patient will loosen one to two brackets or bands during the course of his or her treatment. We understand and do not get upset about it. But, we do want you to know that loose brackets will result in a significant delay in treatment. **We also want you to know that any appointment that involves the rebonding of loose appliances must be done in the morning.** This is a long appointment that cannot be done in the afternoon because of the extra time involved in fixing loose appliances. It is not fair to keep those patients who did not loosen brackets or bands waiting while we replace your broken bracket.

The first three (3) loose metal brackets or bands are on us. If you loosen more than three during the course of treatment, there is a charge of \$75 for each loose bracket or band. If you have ceramic brackets, you are allowed only one. The reason for this policy with ceramic brackets is that ceramics are much more expensive than the metal ones as well as being more time consuming to replace. Lack of attention to the care of your braces can be quite costly.

Loose appliances are one reason we fall behind in our schedule for the day and in your treatment. If you have loose appliance, please inform the office when it happens so we can try our best to keep your treatment on schedule. Also this allows us to schedule accordingly.

Please try really hard to be kind to your braces. We want you to be happy, and that means finishing your treatment on time and getting your braces off when we promised. Help us to make you happy by taking care of your braces. We are happy to provide you with additional copies of the “No-No Food List” and we are always available to answer any questions you have about habits that might be detrimental to healthy, on-time treatment.

Patient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_