

## Cost of Care Less than a Crown

### Average Cost for Treatment is \$894

(based on 70/30 insurance coverage)

Yes, the estimated out-of-pocket cost of the average 3-month orthopedic program at Raleigh Facial Pain Center ranges from \$894 to \$1150, after the initial exam and consult. To put that in perspective, it costs less than one crown in the dental world, one visit to an ER in the medical world, or one year of Botox treatments in the cosmetic world. If your health is important to you, the cost of orthopedic treatment should not keep you from getting long-term relief.

### Up Front Costs Can be Delayed

The cost of orthopedic therapy can be placed on a CareCredit card (healthcare credit card), if you qualify. CareCredit charges no interest for the first year; so you incur no extra cost waiting for the reimbursement from the insurance company. If you want, you can pay your usual copay at the time of treatment to CareCredit. When you are reimbursed by the insurance company, you send a payment to CareCredit.

The NC legislature passed a law to ensure you get timely reimbursement for treatment. Insurance companies have 30 days to pay you.

***NCGS 58-3-225:** North Carolina Prompt Payment Law. The 2000 legislative session requires that all licensed insurance companies must process claims within 30 days of receipt.*

## Services – Medical not Dental

The treatment for any joint muscle complex (ankle, knee, hips, or jaw) is orthopedic therapy, which by nature is a medical condition, and should only be treated by a specialized, board-certified doctor.

The NC Insurance Commissioner has ruled that jaw joint therapy is medical not dental. The courts also ruled orthopedic therapy is medical.

***Court Ruling:** Massella vs. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Connecticut, Inc., No. 1138-August Term 1990, U.S. Ct. App., 2nd Circuit, June 19, 1991.*

Medical insurance companies have used the past confusion of medical vs. dental coverage as a reason to avoid paying for jaw joint orthopedics. Most medical insurance companies now manage a claim for jaw joint therapy the same as any other medical claim. The NC legislature passed a law to help protect the public from insurance companies not paying for this type of coverage.

***Law 58-3-121** (Coverage of treatments of bones and joints: prohibited exclusions) Discrimination against coverage of procedures involving bones or joints of the jaw, face, or head is prohibited in any health benefit plan.*

Visit [www.RaleighFacialPain.com](http://www.RaleighFacialPain.com)  
for more details.

## Jaw Joint and Facial Problems Patient Referral



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## Referral for Jaw Joint and Facial Problems

### Progressive Jaw Joint Muscle Pain

- Do you grind teeth during the night?
- Do you have pain in the jaw in front of the ear or on the side of your face?
- Have you had previous treatment for jaw joint dysfunction or pain?
- Do you have pain chewing, yawning, or opening wide?
- Do you clench your teeth in the daytime?
- Do you frequently take meds for jaw pain (e.g. 4 tablets per day of Advil or Tylenol)?
- Have you ever had a head or neck trauma, car accident, or blow to the head?

### Chewing System Problem

- Do you ever need a mouthguard or splint?
- Do you have jaw asymmetry, slanted smile, or occlusal plane off balance?
- Do you have difficulty or pain biting apples or other hard foods?
- Do you frequently break temporary crowns or teeth?
- Do you have bony enlargements, growths, or bony protrusions in your mouth?
- Do you run out of energy chewing food?
- Do your jaw muscles bulge on the side of your face when you clench?

### Post-Op Dental Treatment Pain

- Do you have pain after dental treatment?
- Does your tooth, crown, bridge, or implant hurt when you chew?
- Have you ever had muscle relaxants prescribed for jaw pain or dental care?

### Bite Problem

- Is your bite uncomfortable or feel unusual?
- Does your tooth, crown, bridge, or implant hurt or not hit right when you chew?
- Have you lost your bite, had dental work done, and now your bite is different?
- Do you bite differently at different times (variable bite)?

### Atypical Toothache

- Do you have a toothache but no visible problems with the tooth?
- Have you had a root canal, retreatment of root canal, apicoectomy, or extraction and still feel pain?
- Do you have tooth pain that migrates or moves to different teeth?

### Jaw Locking

- Does your mouth open (deviate) to one side upon opening?
- Can you move your jaw farther to one side than the other?
- Can you open fully but it hurts?
- Has your jaw ever gotten stuck (can't open past 1 finger wide)?
- Has your jaw ever been stuck fully open?

### Progressive Jaw Joint Noise

- Does your jaw pop or click?
- Does your jaw joint make grinding sounds when it moves?
- Has the jaw joint noise become more frequent or louder?
- Have the jaw joint noises recently stopped?

### Atypical Earache

- Do you have ear pain of unknown origin?

- Does your ENT or physician say you have no problem with your ear?
- Do you have tinnitus or vertigo with ear pain but no inflammation?

### Jaw Symptoms with High Stress

- Was either parent alcoholic or bipolar?
- Do you have problems with anxiety, depression, panic attacks, or high stress?
- Have you ever experienced emotional, physical, or sexual abuse in your life?

### Tension Headache

- Do you have frequent headaches on the side of your head?
- Do you have a family history of tension headaches or migraines?
- Do you have or have you ever had migraines?

### Global Issues

- Do you have sleep problems?
- Do you have IBS, GERD, or ulcers?
- Do you have fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, Lupus, or carpal tunnel problems?
- Do you or have you had neck pain?
- Do you smoke, drink a lot of caffeine, or drink alcohol regularly?

Bring in this form signed by your Doctor and receive a FREE Pre-exam consult at Raleigh Facial Pain Center.

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Patient's Name

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Doctor's Name and Signature