

## **ORTHODONTIC “EMERGENCIES”**

*Patients that are undergoing orthodontic therapy may, from time to time, experience problems with their braces or appliances. Some of the more common problems and their solutions are listed below. It is hoped that this will aid in the quick recognition of these problems, and that the solution can be implemented in such a fashion that the discomfort to the patient will be minimized.*

### **PROBLEM**

### **SOLUTION**

***Soreness...***

*Soreness during orthodontic treatment is to be expected. The majority of the soreness should subside after a few days. Use wax as needed if the soreness or irritation is from a bracket or wire.*

***Archwire poking or has slipped out of the bracket...***

*Try to replace the wire into the bracket or tube with tweezers. If this is not possible, place wax over the end of the wire. If this does not work and you cannot get into the office, then cut the wire with fingernail clippers. Cut the wire only as a last resort. Call the office for an appointment to get the wire fixed.*

***Loose bracket or band...***

*Keep the loose bracket or band. Call the office for an appointment to have the attachment replaced. Be sure to bring the loose bracket or band with you to your appointment.*

***Lost separator(s)***

*Separators are placed to make space for the fitting of metal bands. Should you lose any of your separators, call the office to have them replaced.*

***Broken appliances (retainers, Herbst, etc.)***

*If any appliance is broken or rendered nonfunctional, you should save all parts and call the office for an appointment as soon as possible. It is imperative that you keep and bring all parts to your appointment.*

***Accidents involving the teeth...***

*You should call the office immediately to determine what should be done concerning the extent of damage to your teeth.*

***Misc...***

*If you are not sure about what to do, please call the office, and we will be happy to assist you.*

