

## Dentists (by Chicago Consumers' CHECKBOOK)

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In our [general dentists article](#), you will find Chicago area **general** dentists who were among the highest scoring dentists in our most recent surveys of patients (*CHECKBOOK* and *Consumer Reports* subscribers). In this article, you will find a [list of dental specialists](#). These specialists were identified, not by surveying patients, but by surveying dentists.

We surveyed all actively practicing dentists in the Chicago area (or at least all we could identify) and asked each to name one or two specialists he or she would consider most desirable for care of a loved one—in six specialty fields. The [list of dental specialists](#) includes the specialists named most often, and tells you how often each was mentioned by other dentists.

You can use this list to help you choose a specialist. If you have a general dentist you trust, that dentist will appropriately be your first source of suggestions for specialists. But it makes sense to discuss your dentist's referral recommendations. You can ask the dentist about specialists on our list. Your dentist might not know, or might not have thought about, some of the options you can suggest—or might not shoot quite so high on the quality scale without your prodding.

If any dentist recommends a major treatment of some kind, it is wise to get a second opinion. Do you need any treatment at all, what are your treatment options, and what results can you expect? Our list should be a helpful source of names of dentists you can call on for a second opinion in a number of specialty fields. If the dentist recommending the treatment would be the one doing it, there is especially strong reason to seek another opinion. And in that case, you'll want to get the second opinion from a completely independent dentist, whom you can identify from our list.

If you are considering a pre-paid dental plan, you can use this guide to size up the quality of dentists in available plans' provider directories. Finding even a few of the dental specialists listed in this article would be a good sign.

Remember, whatever dentist you choose, you have a key role in assuring that you get the best possible care. Before a dental visit, get ready. Write down your questions and other information to be sure you don't forget to mention something. Describe any problems or symptoms you have had in detail—when you first noticed the problem, when it feels bad, what it feels like. If the dentist seems to be rushing you through your list of items, explain that discussing these matters is important to you and that you think the dentist should give you enough time.

Ask for a full description of any problems the dentist identifies, alternative treatment plans, risks, and costs. Before agreeing to any treatment, get a clear explanation of what results you can expect. It is best if the dentist gives you a written description of the treatment plan and expected results, but if not, be sure at least to take thorough notes and review with the dentist what you have written. Ask the dentist if he or she guarantees certain results—and what that guarantee means. Will you get your money back or a fee reduction if the results are not as promised? Will the dentist at least try again at no charge (if you are willing)?

Be sure to find out what you need to do—how to prepare before treatment, what aspects of care you have to do on your own, and what you have to do to prevent future problems. For some types of self-care, you will want to have the dentist demonstrate, then have the dentist observe your technique and confirm that you are doing it right.

Our [list of dental specialists](#) includes dentist-recommended specialists in the following specialty fields:

- *Endodontists*—Specialize in treating the pulp of teeth, including doing root canal therapy.
- *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons*—Specialize in surgery of the mouth and face, including removing wisdom teeth, removing tumors, doing biopsies, and doing cosmetic reconstruction of the face after trauma like a car accident or in some orthodontic cases.
- *Orthodontists*—Specialize in the diagnosis, prevention, interception, and correction of malocclusion (bad bite), as well as neuromuscular and skeletal abnormalities of developing or mature orofacial structures. Best known for doing treatments with braces.
- *Pediatric dentists*—Define their specialty by age of patient, not procedures performed, specializing in children from birth to 21 years of age, a period that usually gets patients through the time when dental growth ceases and the wisdom teeth are formed.
- *Periodontists*—Commonly referred to as gum doctors, specialize in the tissues that support, attach to, and surround the teeth, and the treatment and prevention of disease affecting these tissues, including doing gum surgery, and sometimes doing implants.
- *Prosthodontists*—Specialize in repairing and replacing teeth and oral structures, including doing crowns, bridges, implants, and dentures. General dentists do these things too, but prosthodontists often treat the more complicated cases.

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	Name ▲	Distance	Specialty	Number of mentions received on survey
1.	<b>Dr. David Allen</b> 116 W Willow Ave Wheaton, IL 60187 630-668-0197	25.67 miles	Orthodontics	5 mentions
2.	<b>Dr. Gerard Aylward</b> 7310 W North Ave #2-A Elmwood Park, IL 60707 708-456-5454  222 N Plum Grove Rd Palatine, IL 60067 847-358-9000	8.40 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
3.	<b>Dr. Eric Barnes</b> 1335 E 87th St #B Chicago, IL 60619 773-734-1500	13.85 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
4.	<b>Dr. Richard Battistoni</b> 922 S La Grange Rd La Grange, IL 60525 708-352-4500  6855 W North Ave Oak Park, IL 60302 708-848-5900	16.02 miles	Orthodontics	10 mentions
5.	<b>Dr. William Beam</b> 6855 W North Ave Oak Park, IL 60302 708-848-5900	7.94 miles	Orthodontics	6 mentions

	922 S La Grange Rd La Grange, IL 60525 708-352-4500			
6.	<b>Dr. Barry Booth</b> 12635 W 143rd St Homer Glen, IL 60491 708-301-0005	27.11 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
7.	<b>Dr. Michael Casey</b> 1118 N Larkin Ave Joliet, IL 60435 815-725-4070  106 N Division St #SW Plainfield, IL 60544 815-439-4727  640 Bankview Dr Frankfort, IL 60423 815-469-4062	37.52 miles	Orthodontics	6 mentions
8.	<b>Dr. John Damas</b> 15100 S La Grange Rd Orland Park, IL 60462 708-349-1740  5950 W 159th St Oak Forest, IL 60452 708-687-4280	23.99 miles	Orthodontics	4 mentions
9.	<b>Dr. Paul DiFranco</b> 401 W Talcott Rd Park Ridge, IL 60068 847-318-7711	11.29 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
10.	<b>Dr. John Ford</b> 585 Lincoln Ave Winnetka, IL 60093 847-446-2245	12.36 miles	Orthodontics	4 mentions
11.	<b>Dr. Norman Garn</b> 737 N Michigan Ave #610 Chicago, IL 60611 312-649-9214	3.11 miles	Orthodontics	5 mentions
12.	<b>Dr. Laurence Golden</b> 300 S West St Wheaton, IL 60187 630-665-3317	25.67 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
13.	<b>Dr. Lee Graber</b> Rte 60 & Butterfield Rd Vernon Hills, IL 60061 847-367-4920	26.32 miles	Orthodontics	4 mentions
14.	<b>Dr. Chester Handelman</b> 25 E Washington St #1817 Chicago, IL 60602 312-332-4439	4.32 miles	Orthodontics	8 mentions
15.	<b>Dr. Michael Hayward</b> 133 Park Ave Barrington, IL 60010 847-382-5588  600 N North Ct Palatine, IL 60067 847-359-7980	31.35 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions

16.	<p><b>Dr. Bailey Jacobson</b> 4200 W Peterson Ave #116 Chicago, IL 60646 773-545-5333</p> <p>281 W Townline Rd #220 Vernon Hills, IL 60061 847-816-0633</p>	6.78 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
17.	<p><b>Dr. Jerome Jarosz</b> 737 N Michigan Ave #1330 Chicago, IL 60611 312-266-7118</p>	3.11 miles	Orthodontics	6 mentions
18.	<p><b>Dr. Albert Johnson</b> 1775 Glenview Rd #215 Glenview, IL 60025 847-998-8900</p>	12.94 miles	Orthodontics	4 mentions
19.	<p><b>Dr. John Katsis</b> 130 N Bloomingdale Rd Bloomingdale, IL 60108 630-894-5557</p> <p>110 S Oak Ave Bartlett, IL 60103 630-894-5557</p>	23.57 miles	Orthodontics	4 mentions
20.	<p><b>Dr. Shoel Kerzner</b> 64 Old Orchard Shopping Ctr #410 Skokie, IL 60077 847-676-2270</p>	8.43 miles	Orthodontics	6 mentions
21.	<p><b>Dr. Stephen Lippitz</b> 1500 Shermer Rd #100 Northbrook, IL 60062 847-562-8858</p> <p>7070 N Western Ave Chicago, IL 60645 773-508-5588</p>	16.30 miles	Orthodontics	6 mentions
22.	<p><b>Dr. Herbert Lippitz</b> 7070 N Western Ave Chicago, IL 60645 773-508-5588</p> <p>1500 Shermer Rd #100 Northbrook, IL 60062 847-562-8858</p>	5.15 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
23.	<p><b>Dr. Kevin Lucas</b> 1401 McHenry Rd #221 Buffalo Grove, IL 60089 847-955-9444</p>	23.08 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
24.	<p><b>Dr. Mart McClellan</b> 450 Green Bay Rd Kenilworth, IL 60043 847-251-6228</p>	10.65 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
25.	<p><b>Dr. Michael Meehan</b> 6745 W 127th St Palos Heights, IL 60463 708-448-3131</p>	20.50 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
26.	<p><b>Dr. John Murphy</b> 456 N Park Blvd Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 630-858-0850</p>	23.00 miles	Orthodontics	5 mentions

27.	<b>Dr. David Musich</b> 1701 E Woodfield Rd #500 Schaumburg, IL 60173 847-517-1333	22.96 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
28.	<b>Dr. Ralph Robbins</b> 241 Golf Mill Ctr Professional Bldg #905 Niles, IL 60714 847-298-6030	10.77 miles	Orthodontics	11 mentions
29.	<b>Dr. Sheldon Rosenstine</b> 4801 W Peterson Ave #515 Chicago, IL 60646 773-539-3534	6.78 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
30.	<b>Dr. Ejaz Tahir</b> 2140 Wesley Ave Berwyn, IL 60402 708-484-8686  9501 S Central Ave Fl 2 Oak Lawn, IL 60453 708-636-9000	10.27 miles	Orthodontics	5 mentions
31.	<b>Dr. Rudolfo Valente</b> 737 N Michigan Ave #1330 Chicago, IL 60611 312-266-7118	3.11 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
32.	<b>Dr. Barry Walvoord</b> 500 Davis St #106 Evanston, IL 60201 847-328-1700	8.25 miles	Orthodontics	3 mentions
33.	<b>Dr. Neil Warshawsky</b> 3655 N Ashland Ave Chicago, IL 60613 773-404-2288	.90 miles	Orthodontics	4 mentions