

- **images should be taken based on patient need instead of a set time frame**

## **Prescribing dental radiographs**

- the dentist is responsible for prescribing the number, type and frequency of dental radiographs
- each patient's condition is different and therefore each patient must be evaluated for radiographs on an individual basis
- a radiographic examination should never include a set number and type of images at a set interval
- guidelines for prescribing dental radiographs are published by the American Dental Association (*ADA*) in conjunction with the Food & Drug Administrations (*FDA*)
- visit **www.ADA.org** for current guidelines
- patients with caries, periodontal disease, tooth mobility, pain and impacted teeth need more frequent radiographic examinations

## **Guidelines for radiographs in the recall patient**

### **with clinical caries or risk of caries**

- bite-wings at 6 - 12 month intervals

### **with no clinical caries or risk of caries**

- bitewings at 24 - 36 month intervals

### **with periodontal disease**

- clinical judgement for radiographs needed to evaluate periodontal disease; selected bite-wings & periapicals