Frequently Asked Dental Questions

1. **What radiographs (x-rays) are required by Peace Corps?**
   
   Peace Corps requires either a panorex with four posterior bitewings, or a full mouth series (FMS). An FMS consists of a series of periapical radiographs which show all of the teeth and a set of posterior bitewings.

2. **My dentist believes that only a set of bitewing radiographs is necessary for screening. Will that be sufficient?**
   
   No. A panorex or a set of periapical films is required with the bitewings.

3. **My dentist believes a panorex alone is sufficient for screening. Is that correct?**
   
   No. A panorex must be accompanied with bitewing radiographs.

4. **Peace Corps requires four bitewing radiographs but my dentist believes two bitewings are sufficient. Will two bitewings meet Peace Corps requirements?**
   
   The bitewing radiographs must show all teeth from the distal surface of the canine to the distal surface of the most posterior tooth in each quadrant. Usually this requires four bitewing films. If your dentist can show all the required teeth in two films, this will suffice.

5. **How old can the radiographs be?**
   
   Periapical and panorex films must be less than two years old. Bitewing films must be less than one year old.

6. **Are copies of the radiographs acceptable?**
   
   If your dentist exposes conventional films, then copies are not acceptable. You must submit the original films. If your dentist exposes digital radiographs, then your dentist can print a copy on photo quality paper. Regular copy paper is not acceptable for digital images.

7. **Does my dentist need to complete the entire Peace Corps dental charting form?**
   
   Yes, all sections must be completed by your dentist.

Remember to share this guide with your dentist.