

General Dentistry Consent Form

Dentistry is not an exact science and reputable practitioners cannot properly guarantee results. Despite the most diligent care and precaution, unanticipated complications or unintended results, although rare, may occur. A treatment plan is based on the best evidence available during the examination. There is no guarantee that this plan will not change. During treatment, it may be necessary to change or add procedures because of conditions that were not evident during examination, but were found during the course of treatment. For example, root canal treatment may be needed during routine restorative procedures. Any change in treatment plan may result in additional fees.

Guarantee and assurances cannot be made by anyone regarding the dental treatment, which you have requested and authorized. It is essential that you keep your appointments and cooperate in your treatment to help insure the best possible result. Please read the following and initial and sign where noted.

SERVICES THAT MAY BE PROVIDED INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

1. FILLINGS

Care must be exercised in chewing on filled teeth, especially on large fillings and during the first 24 hours, to avoid breakage. A more extensive restorative procedure than originally diagnosed may be necessary, due to more decay than anticipated. Sensitivity can occur following a newly placed filling and will usually go away with time.

(Initials _____)

2. DENTAL RADIOGRAPHS (X-RAYS)

Dental x-rays allow the dentist to diagnose and treat conditions that cannot be detected during a clinical examination. Dental x-ray films detect much more than cavities. For example, x-rays may be needed to survey erupting teeth, diagnose bone diseases, evaluate the results of an injury, or plan orthodontic treatment. If dental problems are found and treated early, before they become visible or painful, dental care is much more comfortable and affordable. Dental x-rays are a part of comprehensive oral examination. If your dental insurance does not cover the fee for x-rays, you will be responsible for charges not paid by your insurance.

(Initials _____)

3. CROWNS, BRIDGES AND LAMINATES

These restorations involve permanent alteration of the tooth structure. It is not always possible to match the color of the natural teeth exactly with artificial teeth. Temporary restorations may come off easily. Care must be taken to insure that they are kept on until the permanent restorations are delivered. The final opportunity to make changes to the new crowns, bridges or laminates (include the shape, fit, size and color) will be before cementation. It is necessary to keep the appointment for permanent cementation. Excessive delays may allow for tooth movement, necessitating the remaking of the restoration and additional charges may be incurred.

(Initials _____)

4. DENTURES (FULL AND PARTIAL)

The wearing of dentures can be difficult. Sore spots, altered speech and difficulty in eating are common problems. Due to jaw ridge loss, retention of full dentures can be a problem. Immediate dentures may require considerable adjusting and several relines. A permanent reline will be needed later (this is not included in the denture fee). You are responsible to return for delivery of the dentures. Failure to do so may result in poorly fitting dentures and

remakes will require additional charges. Failure to wear partial dentures every day will likely lead to tooth movement, resulting in a partial that no longer fits.

(Initials _____)

5. PERIODONTAL DISEASE

Periodontal disease affects the gums and bone, which support the teeth. It is a serious, progressive infection, causing breakdown of the gums and bone and eventual loss of teeth. It is best treated in its early stage. Treatment options may include gum surgery, extractions and replacements. Undertaking any dental procedure may have a future adverse effect on the periodontia.

(Initials _____)

6. ENDODONTIC TREATMENT (ROOT CANAL)

Although over 90% effective, there is no guarantee that root canal treatment will succeed and complications can occur from the treatment. Endodontic files and reamers are very fine instruments and can separate during use. Additional surgical procedures may be necessary following root canal treatment. Despite all efforts to save it, the tooth may still be lost.

(Initials _____)

7. REMOVAL OF TEETH (EXTRACTIONS)

Teeth may need to be extracted for various reasons, such as non-restorability, lack of bone support, part of orthodontic treatment, impactions, etc. There are alternatives to the removal of treatable teeth and these options include root canal treatment, periodontal treatment and crowns. Removal of teeth does not always remove the infection, if present, and further treatment may be necessary. There are risks involved in having teeth removed, including, but not limited to pain, swelling, spread of infection, dry socket, loss of feeling in the teeth, lips, tongue and surrounding tissues (*which is usually temporary, but in rare cases is permanent*), sinus involvement and jaw fracture. If complications arise during or following treatment, referral to a specialist may be needed, requiring further treatment and additional cost.

(Initials _____)

8. DRUGS, MEDICATIONS, AND ANESTHETICS

Antibiotics, analgesics, natural supplements and other medications can cause allergic reactions such as redness and swelling of tissues, pain, itching, vomiting and/or anaphylactic shock. Injections of local anesthetics can cause paresthesia (numbness) of teeth, lips and surrounding tissues. Though quite rare, this numbness can sometimes be permanent. Studies have shown that Bisphosphonate (ex. Fosomax) therapy for osteoporosis can compromise treatment results.

(Initials _____)

Signature of Patient

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian if Patient is a Minor

Date

Signature of Dentist

Date