

Informed Consent Form for General Dentistry

1. EXAMINATION AND X-RAYS

(initials) I understand that radiographs may be required in order to complete the examination, diagnosis and treatment plan.

2. DRUGS AND MEDICATION

(initials) I have been informed and understand that antibiotics, analgesics and other medications can cause allergic reactions causing redness and swelling of tissues, pain, itching, vomiting and/or anaphylactic shock (severe allergic reaction). They may cause drowsiness and lack of awareness and coordination, which can be increased by the use of alcohol or other drugs. I understand that failure to take medications prescribed for me in the manner prescribed may offer risks of continued or aggravated infection, pain and potential drug resistance. I understand that antibiotics can reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

3. CHANGES IN TREATMENT PLAN

(initials) I understand that during treatment it may be necessary to change or add procedures because of conditions found while working on the teeth that were not discovered during examination, the most common being root canal therapy following routine restorative procedures. I give my permission to the Dentist to make any or all changes and additions as necessary.

4. TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT DYSFUNCTION (TMD), COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS TMJ

(initials) I understand that symptoms of popping, clicking, locking and pain can intensify or develop in the joint of the lower jaw (near the ear) subsequent to routine dental treatment wherein the mouth is held in the open position. However, symptoms of TMJ associated with dental treatment are usually transitory in nature and well tolerated by most patients. I understand that should the need for treatment arise, then I will be referred to a specialist for treatment, and the cost of which is my responsibility.

5. FILLINGS

(initials) I understand that the most common complications are pain, sensitivity to temperature, fracture of tooth, nerve damage, damage to other teeth, occlusal (bite) discrepancies, TMJ complications and reactions to drugs and/or anesthesia.

6. REMOVAL OF TEETH

(initials) Alternatives to removal have been explained to me (root canal therapy, crowns, and periodontal surgery, etc.) and I authorize the Dentist to remove the following teeth and any others necessary for reasons in paragraph #3. I understand removing teeth does not always remove all the infection if present and it may be necessary to have further treatment. I understand the risks involved in having teeth removed, some of which are: pain; swelling and spread of infection; dry socket; loss of feeling in my teeth, lips, tongue and surrounding tissue (parasthesia) that can last for an indefinite period of time; or fractured jaw. I understand I may need further treatment by a specialist or even hospitalization if complications arise during or following treatment, the cost of which is my responsibility.

7. CROWNS, BRIDGES, VENEERS AND BONDING

(initials) I understand that sometimes it is not possible to match the color of natural teeth exactly with artificial teeth. I further understand that I may be wearing temporary crowns, which may come off easily and that I must be careful to ensure that they are kept on until the permanent crowns are delivered. I realize that the final opportunity to make changes in my new crown, bridge or cap (including shape, fit, size and color) will be done before cementation. It has been explained to me that in very few cases, cosmetic procedures may result in the need for future root canal treatment, which cannot always be predicted or anticipated. I understand that cosmetic procedures may affect tooth surfaces and may require modification of daily cleaning procedures.

8. DENTURES-COMplete OR PARTIAL

(initials) I realize that full or partial dentures are artificial and constructed of plastic, metal and/or porcelain. It has been explained that potential problems associated with wearing these appliances include looseness, soreness and possible breakage. I realize the final opportunity to make changes in my new denture (including shape, fit, size, placement and color) will be the "teeth in wax" try-in visit. I understand that most dentures require relining approximately three to twelve months after initial placement. The cost for this procedure is not included in the initial denture fee.

9. ENDODONTIC TREATMENT (ROOT CANAL)

(initials) I realize there is no guarantee that root canal treatment will save my tooth, that complications can occur from the treatment and that occasionally metal objects are cemented in the tooth or extend through the root which does not necessarily affect the success of the treatment. I understand that in some cases additional surgical procedures may be necessary following root canal treatment (apicoectomy).

10. PERIODONTAL TREATMENT

(initials) I understand that I have a serious condition causing gum inflammation and/or bone loss and that it can lead to the loss of my teeth. Alternative treatment plans have been explained to me, including non-surgical cleaning, gum surgery and/or extractions. I understand the success of treatment depends in part on my efforts to brush and floss daily, receive regular cleaning as directed, follow a healthy diet, avoid tobacco products and follow other recommendations.

Agreement and Consent

I understand that dentistry is not an exact science, therefore; reputable practitioners cannot properly guarantee results. I acknowledge that no guarantee or assurance has been made by anyone regarding the dental treatment which I have requested and authorized. I understand that each Dentist is an individual practitioner and is individually responsible for the dental care rendered to me. I also understand that no other Dentist other than the treating Dentist is responsible for my dental treatment. I acknowledge the receipt of and understand post-operative instructions and have been given an appointment date to return.

Signature of PATIENT, PARENT or GUARDIAN: _____ Date: _____

Print Patient Name: _____ Doctor: _____