

## General Informational Informed Consent

(Please Read Thoroughly)

Welcome to our office, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve you. We sincerely desire to provide you with the highest quality dental care available. We want you to understand that, though rare, there are certain inherent risks in the practice of dentistry that must be accepted by the patient in order to receive treatment. We do everything in our power to minimize these risks. Not having dental treatment also carries risks including, but not limited to: non-restorable tooth decay, premature loss of teeth, pain, infection, swelling, periodontal (gum) disease, malocclusion (improper bite), and bone loss. The following is a list of some of the possible risks associated with dental treatment in general, but is not all-inclusive. We will also ask for your consent for individual procedures before treatment is started, during which time the specifics concerning particular procedures will be explained. We are always happy to answer any questions you may have at any time.

**Longevity of dental treatment:** Though dental restorations (i.e. fillings and crowns) may last for several years or longer, nothing will last forever. Longevity depends upon many factors, including, but not limited to, home care, hygiene, diet, habits, materials used, genetics, and medical health.

**Medical health:** Your medical health and/or treatment may affect your dental health and/or treatment, and, likewise, your dental health and/or treatment may affect your medical health and/or treatment. It is very important that you always notify the dentist of any new information or changes concerning your medical health or treatment as quickly as possible.

**Reactions to drugs, medications or dental materials:** We only use products of the highest quality, but untoward reactions to drugs, medications or dental materials sometimes occur, and are generally unforeseeable.

**Injury to adjacent teeth or oral tissues:** In the process of treating dental or periodontal disease in one area of the mouth, the potential to injure adjacent teeth or other tissues exists.

**Teeth sensitivity or pain:** After the placement of any restoration (i.e. filling or crown), teeth involved may occasionally become sensitive, especially to temperature change or biting pressure. This usually resolves over a period of weeks to months, but in rare cases may take longer. Sensitivity or pain may also be a sign of other problems that may require different or additional treatments. Please call us immediately with any concerns or questions; it is your responsibility to inform us of any problems if they occur so we may help you.

**Post-operative pain or discomfort:** Occasionally following dental treatment, generalized pain, soreness, and/or discomfort in the jaw, mouth, lips, gums or teeth may occur. This is usually only temporary and resolves quickly with normal healing processes, but may be a sign of other problems requiring additional treatment. Also, post-operative recovery may necessitate home recuperation and time away from work, school, or play. Please call us immediately with any concerns or questions; it is your responsibility to inform us of any problems if they occur so we may help you.

**Additional treatment:** Every effort will be made to restore teeth and treat periodontal (gum) disease definitively according to an initial treatment plan. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, additional treatments are sometimes necessary to properly and definitively treat dental problems. Also, during procedures it is sometimes necessary to modify the planned treatment as new information or problems are discovered. You will always be informed of such changes. These changes may lengthen the time required to properly treat you, may increase the number of visits required, and may increase the originally planned cost of treatment.

**Cracks and/or fractures:** Tooth decay and subsequent tooth restorations (i.e. fillings and crowns) weaken tooth structure. Following dental treatment, restored teeth may occasionally break, crack, or fracture requiring additional treatments or sometimes rendering teeth non-restorable.

**Injury of nerves:** There is a possibility of injury to the nerves of the face, lips, jaws, tongue, teeth, gums, or other oral or facial tissues in the normal processes of dental treatment, particularly those involving the administration of local anesthetics. The resulting anesthesia or paresthesia (numbness) which may occur is usually temporary (i.e. several weeks to several months), but in rare instances may be permanent.

**Aesthetics or appearance:** Every effort will be made to closely approximate the natural or desired tooth color and appearance. However, it is not always possible to achieve the results desired by all patients, and there are no guarantees made in this regard. Also, due to hygiene, diet, smoking, etc., restorations (i.e. fillings and crowns) may discolor or wear over time requiring replacement and/or other additional treatments.

**Referral to other dentists or specialists:** We strive for excellence in all of our work, and always place your best interests first. We only perform services in our office that we can accomplish with the highest degree of quality. Occasionally it is necessary to refer you to a specialist to perform or complete a procedure. This may sometimes increase the cost of treatment and/or the length of time required for treatment. Also, it is sometimes necessary for various reasons to refer you to another general dentist for all or a portion of your treatment.

**Financial arrangements:** We want to make financial arrangements that are comfortable for you. Please make sure you read and understand our office's financial policies. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have, and help you make any necessary arrangements before beginning treatment. Thank you.

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Patient's (or Legal Guardian's) Signature (Relationship to Patient)	Patient's Printed Name	Date

Witnessed by (Asked for and/or Answered Questions):

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