INFORMED CONSENT FOR DENTAL TREATMENT

CROWNS – CAPS

BENEFITS:
- Make you look nicer (cosmetic)
- To Repair a tooth which is badly broken
- To Prevent a tooth from fracturing
- To restore a tooth which has broken
- To eliminate a space where food is being trapped
- To hold a false tooth in place as part of a bridge
- To make a solid structure to attach partial denture
- To splint loose teeth together to strengthen them
- The tooth can no longer be filled

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:
- Porcelain portion of crown may fracture
- Crown may come off and need to be reconnected
- Tooth may abscess and require further treatment (may not show up until later)

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING
- Tooth will probably fracture
- Tooth may need to be extracted
- May need a root canal in addition to the crown
- May need bridgework or denture

ALTERNATIVES
- Extraction
- Temporary crown
- Steel crown

BRIDGEWORK

BENEFITS:
- Make you look nicer
- To replace missing teeth
- Missing teeth are not removable
- Some of the same advantages as crowns
- Can improve chewing efficiency

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:
- Same as crowns

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING
- Teeth will drift and lean over
- May loose back teeth due to shifting
- Periodontal problems (Gun disease)
- Can reduce chewing efficiency

ALTERNATIVES:
- Partials
- Temporary partials
- No teeth in the spaces

PARTIALS (REMOVABLE BRIDGEWORK)

BENEFITS:
- Cost

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:
- Can wear on teeth
- Can rock or stress teeth – may loosen own natural teeth
- Metal clasps a sometimes visible
- Decay can occur under clasps
- Usually some amount of movement from the partial

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING
- Same as under Bridgework

ALTERNATIVES:
- Bridgework
- Temporary Partial
- Keep spaces without teeth placement

ROOT CANAL

BENEFITS:
- Eliminate decay
- Relieve Pain
- Save the tooth

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS
- Undiagnosable root fracture means failure and extraction
- Undiagnosable auxiliary canal means failure and extraction

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING
- Extraction of tooth

ALTERNATIVES
- Extraction
- Bridgework

FILLINGS

BENEFITS:
- Eliminate decay
- Relieve pain
- Fill in a hole or space in tooth
- Cover eroded area
- Protect a sensitive surface

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:
- Tooth may abscess from the filling
- May fracture the tooth
- Tooth will be sensitive to temperature changes
- Toxicity from silver fillings is alleged by some
- Filling may fall out

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING
- May loose tooth
- Tooth may fracture
- Decay will get worse
- May result in need for root canal

ALTERNATIVES:
- Temporary filling

GUM SURGERY (Gingivectomy)

BENEFITS:
- Eliminate infection
- Reduce food pockets around teeth
- Eliminate foul odors
- Reduce overgrown tissue
- Can eliminate Tartar effectively

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:
- May need to be replaced after a time
- Some after-pain
- Might lose teeth if they don't respond to treatment

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING
- Will lose tooth sooner
- May not get rid of infection

ALTERNATIVES:
- More frequent appointments for scaling

EXTRACTIONS

BENEFITS:
- Last resort for non-salvageable tooth
- Eliminate pain
- Remove teeth that are out of position

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:
- Fractured particles may remain
- Irritation to nerves may cause temporary or permanent numbness
- Part or all of the tooth may be lodged in sinus, requiring more surgery
- Bad infections may take a long time to clear up
- Jaw may be stiff and difficult to open for a time
- If jawbone is very weak it may fracture

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:
- Spread of infection
- Swelling
- Pain

ALTERNATIVES:
- None

CLEANING – SCALING

BENEFITS:
- Look nicer
- Clean mouth
- Eliminate odors
- Prevent odors
- Prevents Gum Disease
- Some portions may be performed by auxiliary personnel

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:
- Sensitive teeth
- Feeling of spaces between teeth
- Filling may be loosened (Normal if filling was ready to fall out)
- Sensitive gums

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:
- Stains on teeth
- Odors
- Gum Disease
- Will lose teeth sooner

ALTERNATIVES:
- None

X-RAYS

BENEFITS:
- More complete diagnosis
- Can find hidden problems
- Can make a determination of treatment
- X-Rays are taken by qualified personnel

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:
- Exposure to X-Ray radiation (minimal)
- X-ray pictures remain property if this office

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:
- Cannot perform dental services

ALTERNATIVES:
- None

BONDED FACINGS

BENEFITS:
- Esthetics – they look really nice
- Cover crooked teeth
- Close spaces and gaps
- Cover discolored teeth

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:
- Edges can stain after a time and need to be freshened up (additional fee)
- Breakage can occur, resulting in need for remake
- Difficult to remove

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING
- None (other than appearance)

ALTERNATIVES:
- Crowns

LOCAL ANESTHETICS

BENEFITS:
- Avoid pain during treatment and procedures

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:
- Prolonged numbness may extend beyond normal
- Nerve damage
- Bruising (hematoma)
- In rare instances, possible consequences may include all of those applicable. General Anesthesia, including allergic reactions up to and including death

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:
- Mild to severe pain during and after treatment

ALTERNATIVES:
- Willingness to accept pain during treatment

Name of Patient _____

I have read the above statements and have received a copy of them if requested, and recognize their importance in helping me make decisions. My initials indicate that I have read and understand this consent document. I recognize that failures can occur for all kinds of reasons and that complications can occur in any procedure. I also understand that, where decay has occurred, or a tooth has fractured or abscessed, that these same forces are still working on the tooth even after it has been restored therefore, decay or fracture can still occur as the restored tooth is not better than what nature has given in the first place. If for any reason a conflict or disagreement should arise I will present such conflict or disagreement to my attending dentist in order to resolve the problem. If we are unable to agree on a solution, then I agree to take the problem to a reconciliation/mediation board such as the dental society and agree to accept their resolution in lieu of pursuing remedies by way of litigation. I also understand that this agreement is binding on my heirs and all other family members. I now give my consent to the attending dentist to render to me dental treatment that we have agreed is necessary for myself. I also agree to reimburse the attending dentist for all services rendered to me and I am aware that the payment for these services is due at the time they are rendered.

Signature _____ Date _____