

Consent for Complete Dentures

Time Frame

- I understand that at least 6-8 appointments will be required to fabricate my dentures, starting with the first appointment to make diagnostic casts. If there have been recent tooth extractions, I understand that denture fabrication cannot begin until a minimum of 8 weeks following tooth removal to allow for adequate healing time. Additional appointments may be required for denture relines or remakes.

Possible Delays

I am aware that there may be delays in the fabrication and delivery of my dentures due to:

- The need for additional healing time (8 weeks or more is the recommended healing time) due to my own individual healing response.
- The need for additional surgeries -- i.e., alveoloplasty (bone shaping) and tuberosity procedures -- which will require additional healing time.
- Holidays and academic breaks.
- Scheduling conflicts in obtaining a prosthodontic screening and other appointments.

Difficulties and Problems with Wearing Dentures

The difficulties and problems associated with wearing dentures have been presented to me, along with my treatment plan. I understand that each person is unique and success with dentures cannot be compared to others' denture experience. These issues include, but are not limited to:

- Difficulties with speaking and/or eating
- Food under dentures
- Functional problems:
 - it is the patient's responsibility to learn to manage their dentures to become successful with eating and speaking.
 - Abnormal tongue position or tongue movements during speech or non-functional habits will generally cause an unstable lower denture. It is the patient's responsibility to break these habits .
- Loose dentures (particularly with lower dentures)
- Lack of retention (more common with upper dentures, but can be an issue with lower dentures as well)
- Need for adhesives
- Feeling of fullness
- Saliva production
 - Certain medications may decrease the amount of saliva produced resulting in an increase in sore spots and more difficulties adapting to the dentures.
 - Some denture patients may experience an excessive amount of saliva initially but this usually returns to normal.
- Effect(s) of poor ridge shape and form
 - Anatomical conditions specific to each patient will have a direct effect on the retention and stability of his or her dentures and affect the learning curve for eating and speaking
- The need for future relines and remakes of either immediate or conventional dentures.

Immediate Dentures

I have been provided written information about immediate dentures and understand:

- Immediate dentures are transitional dentures and must be relined or remade, usually about three to six months following insertion.
- Subsequent to complete bone healing, a new denture may be required due to tooth positioning requirements. Occasionally this requires the opposing denture to be remade as well. **Fees for required laboratory relines or remakes** of immediate dentures are **NOT INCLUDED** in the immediate denture fee.
- Minor adjustments and temporary (tissue conditioning) relines may be required with immediate dentures and are included in the immediate denture fee, but only for a period of **6 months**.

Immediate Dentures vs. Conventional Dentures

Immediate denture procedures involve insertion of a denture on the same day as the remaining front teeth are extracted. Fabrication of **conventional dentures** is usually delayed 8-12 weeks after removal of all remaining teeth. I understand that the advantages of delayed denture (conventional) fabrication are:

- Relines or remakes **may not** be required as soon as with immediate dentures.
- There are generally fewer adjustments as compared to immediate dentures.
- The fee for a conventional denture is lower than for an immediate denture.

Denture Relines and Remakes

I understand that:

- **Dentures made 8 weeks after tooth removal still may need to be relined or remade before one year** due to continued bone resorption (shrinkage) of the ridges. This is especially true for a patient with a history of smoking and/or periodontal disease or extensive oral surgery procedures associated with tooth removal.
- There will be a charge for any laboratory relines or remakes determined necessary due to continued ridge resorption (shrinkage) or bone loss following delayed construction of dentures.

Benefits of Longer Healing Time for Denture Wearers

A longer healing time after tooth extraction and before denture fabrication is started (longer than 8 weeks) is preferable. **Patients who have dentures made 6 months or more following tooth loss rarely need relines or remakes during the first year** of wearing new dentures. However, there is no guarantee that a reline or remake of the denture will not be required due to continued bone resorption. I understand that:

- I will be charged for a reline or denture remake when it is required due to the continued physiologic bone resorption of the ridge.
- The average denture usually requires a laboratory reline or remake at least once every four years due to functional wear and/or continued bone resorption.
- I have been informed that this **bone loss will continue throughout my lifetime making subsequent denture construction more difficult, less satisfying, and less comfortable for me than my previous denture experience.**

Patient Expectations for Dentures

- The College of Dentistry will fabricate a well-constructed denture to the best of our ability, however, the College cannot guarantee a patient will be able to successfully and comfortably wear a well-constructed denture. I am aware that dentures are not real teeth. I have been told that **dentures should not be considered a replacement for teeth, but a replacement for no teeth.** I am also aware that at best, I will end up with about 15-20% efficiency as compared to my natural teeth.
- I understand the costs associated with my dentures and my responsibility toward payment
 - A payment of half the cost of denture treatment must be made before impressions are made.
 - The balance of the denture cost must be made in full by the delivery date – or a payment plan approved by the Business Office must be in place.
 - Minor denture adjustments will be at no charge to the patient within the first **6 months** of denture delivery.
 - Denture adjustment appointments made six months after denture delivery will have a charge for the exam as well as for adjustments.
- I understand that I should return to the College of Dentistry for evaluation appointments and adjustments as recommended and scheduled (including, but not limited to):
 - 24-hour follow-up appointment after denture delivery.
 - One-week follow-up appointment after denture delivery
 - Annual exams (yearly follow up is recommended.)
- Once dentures are delivered to a patient, full refunds will not be given. In order to be eligible for a partial refund (a maximum of 1/3 of the total cost,) the patient must have:
 - Returned for recommended /required follow-up and evaluation appointments (24-hour and one week.)
 - Returned for additional follow up appointments as recommended by the College of Dentistry.
 - Contacted and discussed issues or concerns with a College of Dentistry provider within 90 days of the date of delivery
 - Returned the dentures within 90 days of the date of delivery **if a refund is approved.**
 - I understand that adjustments made to dentures by individuals other than the College of Dentistry students or faculty, may void my eligibility for partial or complete refund.
- I understand that after adjustments are completed I should return to the College for a yearly recall (this is a separate cost.)

Patient Consent

I have been fully informed of the fees and problems associated with complete dentures, the alternative treatments available, and the necessity for follow-up care. I have had an opportunity to ask any questions I may have in connection with the treatment and fees and to discuss my concerns with my student dentist and/or supervising dentist. After thorough consideration, I consent to complete dentures as presented to me during consultation and in the treatment plan presentation.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT.

Date

Signature of Patient

Date

Signature of Witness