

Important Information About Complete Dentures

University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics

Time Frame

The College of Dentistry does *not* fabricate one appointment, same day dentures.

I understand that **at least 6-8 appointments will be required to fabricate my dentures.** If there have been recent extractions, I understand that denture fabrication will not begin until a minimum of 8 weeks following tooth removal to allow for adequate healing time. Additional appointments may be required for relines or remakes. I understand that dentures fabricated sooner than 6 months post-extraction have an increased risk for remake and not just reline (refit) due to patient-specific bone changes.

Possible Delays

I am aware that delays in the fabrication and delivery of my dentures may be 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 to shape the bone, which will require additional healing time
- Holidays and academic breaks
- Scheduling conflicts

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 experiences.

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
- Need for adhesives
- Feeling of fullness
- Saliva production
 - Certain medications may decrease the amount of saliva produced resulting in sore spots and difficulties adapting to the dentures.
 - Some denture patients experience an excessive amount of saliva.
- Effect(s) of poor ridge shape and form
 - Anatomical conditions specific to each patient have a direct effect on retention and stability of dentures and affect the learning curve for eating and speaking
- The need for future relines and remakes of either immediate or conventional dentures.

Immediate Upper Dentures

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

- An immediate denture requires the **same number of appointments (6-8)** as conventional dentures. Back teeth are extracted first before making the denture if a dental student is fabricating the upper immediate denture.
- An immediate upper denture 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** teeth.

Upper *and* lower immediate dentures together are not fabricated and delivered by dental students. Referral to a resident in the Graduate Prosthodontics clinic will be necessary to meet this request.

I understand that the advantages of conventional denture 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 - 10 weeks after tooth removal still may need to be relined or remade before one year** due to continued bone shrinkage. 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 resorption 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 that 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 six 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. Annual exams will also have a separate cost.

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 a partial or complete refund.