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.