

## **GENERAL INFORMED CONSENT**

**Thank you for choosing Klein Dental Center as your dental healthcare provider. It is our goal to provide the best quality dental care possible. A big part of that process involves good communication between you and our staff. One way to do that is with informed consent. We use informed consent forms for specific procedures, but today we want to just give you some general information about what to expect during you visit here.**

### **Examination:**

A medical history will be taken and vitals including blood pressure and pulse and weight on all patients. The more accurate the information you give us, the better we can safeguard your treatment with us. Our staff will inquire as to the nature of your visit and x-rays may or may not be taken prior to seeing the doctor depending upon the situation. The dentist will spend a few minutes visiting with you to acquaint him with your dental needs and health concerns. A visual examination will be done to note the currently existing condition of your mouth, problems that exist and possible solutions. This may involve using x-rays, decay detecting lights, a decay detecting laser, pulp testers, and palpation (touch). Measurements may be taken to determine if there is gum disease. We may elect to take photographs of pre-existing conditions for our records. Photos and x-rays may be used, within HIPAA guidelines to consult with specialists or for further dental learning, always protecting the identity of the patient, of course. We will also examine the hard and soft tissue of the head and neck for any signs of oral cancer, joint problems, gum disease or orthodontic problems.

Once all information is gathered, Dr. Neal will discuss your dental needs and propose treatment options. You will be given what time you need to ask questions so that you can understand what is being planned. Your signature on the proposed treatment plan is your acknowledgment that we have discussed this and that you understand and give permission to proceed.

### **X-Rays:**

Dental x-ray technology has advanced a great deal over the years. The intensity of x-rays needed to make an image on dental x-ray film is hundreds of times lower than that used in general medicine. A whole year's worth of dental x-rays will expose you to about as much radiation as spending one day outside in the sun. A lead apron is used just as an extra precaution and reduces exposure to all but the mouth area. It also protects unborn babies and people who have already received other types of radiation. We try to keep exposures to a minimum and will usually only require a full mouth survey every 3 to 5 years. In the between years we make take just a few films if needed. We know of no situations where any health problems have ever arisen from exposure to dental x-rays.

### **Other Diagnostic Needs:**

In extensive rehabilitation cases, it may be necessary to take impressions to make models of the teeth to study and consult with technicians before a final treatment plan can be put together. It may be necessary to refer to a specialist if the doctor deems the treatment is outside his area of professional abilities. Doctor Neal will sometimes take photographs to aid in diagnosis and document dental treatments. These photos are kept as part of your permanent record. They may be used to communicate with insurance companies and dental specialists or to demonstrate certain treatment outcomes to other patients or on Klein Dental Center, PC marketing social media. All patient identity is concealed according to all HIPAA and privacy regulations.

### **A Word about Periodontal Disease:**

Because of the nature of periodontal disease (pyorrhea), it is not usually apparent to the patient in the early stages that they have it. However, just like other diseases, catching it early will improve the chances of a good outcome. Just like keeping your weight down or preventing heart disease, curing

periodontal disease requires a change of habits, improving how you clean your teeth at home and monitoring in the future against it's recurring. It is common for a patient to come in just for a "cleaning" to find out for the first time they have periodontal disease and need more than just a cleaning. It is important to remember, if you are told you need treatment for periodontal disease but elect to "just clean them for now", you are in effect not going to stop the damage that will occur. It is like having your carpets cleaned when your house is on fire. You call the fire department first and worry about the carpet cleaning later. Only good homecare can actually prevent the progression of gum disease. Even the finest dental work a dentist can do will be destroyed by new decay or gum disease if not taken care of at home.

### **A Few Other Things:**

When having routine care done, we just want you to be aware of a few things. We like to monitor blood pressure when doing anything major, especially if we are giving you a sedative or doing surgery. Dr. Neal will make verbal notes into a digital recorder during his time with you. Some dental anesthetics contain epinephrine, if you get enough in your blood stream, it can cause your heart to beat harder, and make you jittery.....THIS IS NOT AN ALLERGIC REACTION AND YOUR HEALTH IS NOT IN DANGER..... it will pass in just a few minutes. If you have had this happen in the past and want to avoid it, tell the doctor and he will use different anesthetic. Sometime the act of giving an injection, scraping (scaling) the teeth, or shaping for a crown or bridge under the gum line can stir up bacteria and cause some soreness and swelling or ulceration in the area where the skin was punctured, this happens very rarely, but is not due to improper care and will heal back to normal within a week or two. Sometimes latex gloves can cause chafing or cold sores to develop on the lips or corners of the mouth. It is important to remember not to bite or chew your lip when numb, it can cause a nasty injury that can take weeks to heal.

When we remove decay from a tooth to fill it, we do everything possible to protect against post operative sensitivity to temperature or biting pressure. A normal tooth with a normal nerve can become irritated and be sensitive after being filled. However, a normal nerve will heal and the sensitivity will go away. This can be a slow process and can takes months in some cases. If you have sensitivity after a filling, have the dentist check to be sure the filling is sitting properly in the tooth and that you don't bite too hard on it. If this all checks out, then sometimes it's just necessary to give it time to settle down. In cases where the nerve won't stop being sensitive, it may be necessary to remove it (perform a root canal). This is very rare. Sensitivity can also happen following crown preparations. Most of the time is due to the nature of the temporary crown. When the permanent crown is cemented, this usually goes away.

While undergoing various treatments, the doctor will prescribe medications for infection, swelling, pain etc., please be sure to following the written instructions and take them as directed for best effect. It is Important to know what your are allergic to. Patients can have reactions to medications such as: dizziness, dry mouth, itching, nausea, drowsiness, uncoordination just to name a few. Alcohol can increase these effects and also reduce the effectiveness of drugs like antibiotics. Antibiotics can reduce the effectiveness of birth control pills so take extra precautions when on antibiotic therapy. Do not operate machinery or do dangerous work if the meds make you drowsy or dizzy. And remember, medicine will just stop a toothache temporarily, you must get the dental work completed to prevent it from coming back!

Dental fillings can be silver metal or tooth colored resin. Both have been approved by the American Dental Association as safe. Please advise the dentist if you want metal free dentistry done. All filling materials will wear and leak over time and eventually need to be replaced in the years ahead. Once a filling has reached a certain size, refilling is no longer an option and a crown must me done

Some crowns and fillings use metal alloys. Certain individuals are likely to develop allergic reactions to some metals in these alloys that can take the form of redness, rashes, swelling, flaking, burning in the mouth, discolorations, or aberrations in taste or smell.

Due to variations of natural tooth colors, it may not be possible to get a perfect color match with porcelain. Some spaces between teeth may be too large to close completely and small gaps are deliberately placed at the gum line between crowns to allow flossing and cleaning.

Because of natural tooth movement, all dental work that is fabricated by a lab needs to be inserted within 45 days to insure optimum fit. If the patient does not return within 45 to 60 days to insert lab work and it does not fit, the patient will be responsible for the cost a new item.

Due to the nature of the human body, it is not possible to guarantee the outcome of dental treatment to the complete satisfaction of the doctor or patient. There always exists the possibility of failure, relapse or worsening of a situation that requires further treatment including referral to a specialist. The dental procedure recommended by the dentist is his best estimate as to what will resolve your dental problem and that without this care the condition will only get worse and require more extensive treatment in the future.

Dr. Neal follows the guidelines of the State of Texas and the American Dental Association in providing quality, standard of care dentistry to his patients. However, even the finest quality dentistry can be destroyed by decay and gum disease over time. It is very important to protect the time and expense you have invested in your dental care by having regular checkups and cleanings. Small problems can be detected early and corrected before they turn into expensive re-working of treatment. Dr. Neal cannot assure your best dental outcome if you do not come back in for regular checkups that include, at the least, examination, x-rays and cleanings.

This is a general overview of the more common situations you may experience with routine dental care. More extensive informed consents or used for more specific treatments and will be presented when needed.

I the undersigned have reviewed this document, have had an opportunity to discuss it with the doctor and understand its content.

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Patient or Legal Guardian Name Printed

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Patient or Legal Guardian Signature

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Date