

## ORAL TREATMENT PROTOCOL

Thank you for calling our office to request information about our oral treatment protocol. We are happy to serve you in any way possible. This form is designed to answer questions you may have and explain, step by step, the oral treatment protocol utilized by our office. Because most patients travel great distances, we encourage a phone consultation first.

**Before Your Initial Examination Appointment—Please Read all Information in the patient information forms carefully before completing any forms and call our office if you have any questions or need any assistance.**

**Please Complete and E-Mail/Fax the Enclosed Patient Information Forms** to our office, along with any other information, records, reports, or x-rays that may be helpful. Patient information must be received BEFORE a phone consultation or the initial appointment is scheduled. If you do not receive a call from us within 2 weeks after returning the enclosed forms, please call our office and make sure we received your information. Please also include your referring physician's or health care provider's information if you want to coordinate your pre and post dental care together and if you are traveling,

**Please Schedule Your Appointment, Designate a Driver and Make Hotel Reservations if Needed**

**The Initial Examination Appointment** There are five basic components of the initial examination appointment.

1. **Teeth Cleaned:** To perform a comprehensive oral health evaluation, design an appropriate treatment plan and obtain optimal results with composite fillings, bonded restorations, and oral surgeries, it is very important for the teeth and gums to be clean and free from plaque and calculus. If you have recently had your teeth cleaned, please have the dentist send us the periodontal charting.
2. **Orientation:** More in-depth information about dental procedures, specialized equipment, and the treatment process will be provided and your questions will be answered during your phone consultation and/or initial oral examination and consultation.
3. **Charting and Pre-Treatment Records:** One of our staff members will perform some or all of the following procedures: full mouth dental charting, vitals, study models, photographs, panoramic x-ray and bite wing x-rays as needed for evaluation. This information is necessary to design a comprehensive treatment plan and provide an estimate of time and costs.
4. **Laboratory Tests** Based on an individual's situation, you may need tests performed and results sent to develop a comprehensive treatment plan; such as:
  - a. **Blood Serum Compatibility Test** - This test is performed by Clifford Laboratory and determines an individual's biocompatibility with several hundred dental materials. This test is used to determine appropriate dental restorative or treatment materials. The blood for this test is drawn at a local lab.
  - b. **Methylation Genotyping**
  - c. **A1C - to Test blood sugar control over the last 3 months.**

- d. During extraction of root canal-treated teeth or cavitation surgeries, we have the capability of taking a tissue sample to run what is called DNA Polymerase DNA-PCR or polymerase chain reaction test to see what kind of microbes are present that might be causing you health challenges you didn't know were related.
5. **Examination and Consultation** Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ will perform a head and neck examination. After reviewing the information and records submitted by you and the records taken in our office, he will then discuss his findings with you, the patient.
- **A Treatment Plan will be determined jointly by you and the doctor, after they discuss various treatment options.**
  - **A Cost Estimate** of the treatment plan will be provided to you at this appointment, or a staff member will contact you within a few days with this information or provide it after the consultation depending upon your next scheduled appointment. **A Support Nutritional Program** will be encouraged and coordinated with referring health care provider for you to follow for at least 2-4 weeks prior to and during the course of dental and/or surgical procedures.
  - We also encourage a **Therapeutic Nutritional Program** be followed a few days before and after dental/surgical procedures. Nutritional supplements may be purchased from your physician, our office or local health food stores.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ will review the results of the tests performed as part of the initial examination when they are received in our office. If he determines that any additional tests are needed, or modifications need to be made to the support or therapeutic programs, we will notify you. You will receive a call from our office staff to clarify and verify for accuracy the submitted online forms

## **Scheduling Treatment Appointments**

**Check Personal Calendar - Know When Appointments Can Be Scheduled.** After completing the examination and consultation, we will be able to determine the approximate number of appointments you need. We will then schedule the minimum number of appointments necessary. If you request conscious sedation, the appointment will need to be made in the morning.

**Removal Procedures of Present Restorations and Decay** are usually performed first. Existing restorations are usually removed by the quadrant. Testing performed during the initial exam, specific dental needs, and your symptoms will determine the order of removal. Depending on the number, size, and type of restorations present and your endurance, usually one or two quadrants are removed per appointment. Appointments usually range from 2 1/2 hours to 4 1/2 hours. However, if you have the resilience, it is possible to schedule longer appointments: or if you have jaw joint problems, the removal treatment process may require a greater number of shorter appointments or the selection of conscious sedation for relaxation and comfort.

**Surgical Procedures** such as extractions and other oral surgeries are usually performed after restorative procedures. This prevents dental restorative materials from entering the bloodstream through unhealed surgical sites.

**Total Length of Treatment Period for Removal and Surgical Procedures** will vary according to your particular needs. It is preferable, if possible, to schedule all removal and surgical procedures within a 4-6 week time period. If this is not feasible due to resilience, finances, or travel, the length of treatment time can be extended.

**Lab Processed Restorations** such as inlays, onlays, crowns, bridges, laminates, dentures, partials, and orthodontic appliances usually require two separate appointments: a preparation appointment, followed by time for the lab to perform its work, and then a seating appointment. Temporary restorations are placed during the time the permanent restoration is being fabricated by the lab.

**Rescheduling Appointments** is possible. If for some reason you find it impossible to make a scheduled appointment, please call our office as soon as you know a change is necessary. This will allow us to fill your appointment slot or trade your appointment slot with someone else so your treatment is not delayed and we may accommodate other patients' needs. We need a minimum of 24 hours' notice, but at least **3 days' notice** is helpful, as many of our patients come from out of town.

**Pre- and Post-Surgical Support** is vital to insure your optimal potential for healing. Please identify and be prepared to discuss your pre- and post- options for care. Let us know if you have a health care professional, family member and/or friend who is available to provide appropriate support in the form of providing transportation to and from your surgery appointment and after surgery care.

## **Payment Policies**

**Payment for Services** may be made with any of the following: Cash, Personal Check, Money Order, VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. Etc.....

**Payment is Due** the day services are performed. The total fee for lab fabricated restorations are due the first appointment when restorations are prepared.

**We Do Not Accept Assignment of Insurance Benefits** Upon request, insurance superbills for dental services will be provided for you to file with your insurance company. Additional reports and x-rays requested by insurance companies will be provided to the companies from our office with your permission. You will be responsible for paying any extra charges incurred for these records and reports. This office is dedicated to and focused on the dental services needed by patients and does not have the staff time to process insurance claims. Please make sure you state clearly on your claim to make reimbursements directly to you. If a check is sent to this office from an insurance company, it will be returned back to the insurance company.

Thank You,