

## Notice of Privacy Practices Patient Acknowledgement

I have received this practice's Notice of Privacy Practices written in plain language. The Notice describes the uses and disclosures of my protected health information that may be needed by this practice, my individual rights, how I may exercise these rights, and the practice's legal duties with respect to my information. I understand that this practice reserves the right to change the terms of its Notice of Privacy Practices, and to make changes regarding all provided health information resident at, or controlled by this practice. I understand I can obtain this practice's current Notice of Privacy Practices upon request.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of patient or guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Consent for Root Canal Therapy

Tooth # \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Root canal therapy has a high degree of success but as it is a biologic procedure, the results cannot be guaranteed.** Many factors influence the treatment outcome including the following: the bone support around the tooth, fracture lines and the shape and condition of the canals.
2. **Teeth treated with root canals must be protected during treatment.** Caution should be used when chewing on treated teeth since they have an increased potential to fracture until a crown is placed.
3. **If the tooth has a crown or is part of a bridge, then there is a small risk that the crown or bridge will fracture or be dislodged during treatment.** If this occurs, we may not be equipped to properly repair it and will recommend that you return to your dentist for any repairs that are needed.
4. **The tooth is normally sensitive following appointments and even remains so for a few weeks after treatment is complete.**
5. **Fractures are one of the main reasons why root canals fail.** Unfortunately, some cracks on the root are extremely difficult to detect. Whether it occurs before or after root canal therapy, it may require the extraction of the tooth.
6. **Teeth treated with root canals can still decay.** As with all of your teeth, proper care consists of good oral hygiene, a sensible diet, and periodic dental cleanings and check-ups.
7. **With some teeth, a root canal alone may not be sufficient.** For example, if the canal(s) are severely bent and/or calcified, if there is a substantial infection around the roots, or if there is a broken instrument within the canal, the tooth may remain sensitive and a surgical procedure or extraction may be necessary to resolve the problem.
8. **Like most medical/dental procedures, there exist several potential risks.** These include the following: swelling; pain; infection; numbness in the lip, tongue, chin, gums, cheeks, and teeth, which is transient but on infrequent occasions may be permanent; reactions to injections or medications which in rare cases can be life-threatening; changes in biting; jaw muscle spasms; TMJ difficulty; referred pain to ear, neck, or head; sinus perforations; complications from the use of dental instruments: broken instruments, perforation of the root or sinus, discoloration of the face, reactions to medications causing drowsiness and lack of coordination.
9. **There are alternatives to root canal therapy.** They include the following:
  1. No treatment at all (which may place you at risk)
  2. Extraction of the tooth followed by no treatment, a bridge, a partial, or an implant.
10. **AFTER ROOT CANAL THERAPY, THERE WILL BE A TEMPORARY FILLING IN THE TOOTH.** You should return to your general dentist for a *final* restoration as soon as possible.
11. **Since teeth with root canals are weaker, your general dentist will probably recommend a crown.** Thus, the cost to restore your tooth is **SEPARATE** from the cost of root canal treatment. *The diagnosis, prognosis, and nature of root canal treatment have been explained to me and I have had a chance to ask questions. I understand that the success of root canal treatment cannot be guaranteed. I authorize Dr. Cox and his assistants to proceed with treatment.*

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_ wit. init \_\_\_\_\_