

Purpose

Dental treatment is an important part of your overall health. Before beginning care, we want you to clearly understand the potential benefits, limitations, and risks of dental treatment, as well as your responsibilities as a patient. By signing this form, you acknowledge that you have been informed, have had the opportunity to ask questions, and give your consent for dental treatment provided by 208 Dental.

This consent applies to **routine, preventive, diagnostic, and restorative dental care**, including services provided by dentists and dental hygienists under appropriate supervision, unless otherwise revoked in writing.

Examinations & X-Rays

Dental examinations may include X-rays (radiographs), which are sometimes necessary to evaluate areas that cannot be examined directly, such as between teeth, under restorations, or within the bone.

Without recommended X-rays, cavities, infections, periodontal disease, and other conditions may go undetected, potentially resulting in progression of disease or the need for more extensive treatment.

X-Ray Requirement & Refusal of Care

Our office follows the accepted standard of care, which includes the use of diagnostic radiographs as part of comprehensive examinations and ongoing evaluation. If a patient repeatedly refuses necessary X-rays, we may be unable to provide safe and complete care, and the patient may be dismissed from the practice.

If you decline recommended X-rays, periodontal therapy, treatment, or referrals, you acknowledge that diagnosis and treatment planning may be limited, conditions may worsen or go undetected, and you accept responsibility for outcomes related to declined care. Refusal of recommended treatment may require written documentation.

Radiation Safety

208 Dental follows the **ALARA principle (As Low As Reasonably Achievable)** and uses modern techniques, including digital radiography, to minimize radiation exposure while still providing the diagnostic information necessary for safe and effective treatment.

Medications, Anesthesia & Sedation

Dental treatment may involve the use of medications, including antibiotics, local anesthetics, pain relievers, sedatives, or nitrous oxide (laughing gas). Possible side effects may include soreness at injection sites, nausea, dizziness, swelling, itching, drowsiness, or, rarely, severe allergic reactions including anaphylaxis.

- Some antibiotics may reduce the effectiveness of birth control pills
- Medications may interact with prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, supplements, or recreational substances
- Sedation or medications may impair coordination or judgment
- You should not drive, operate machinery, or consume alcohol until fully recovered

Use of sedation is **voluntary**, and you may decline or discontinue its use at any time. Separate consent may be required for certain sedation services. Failure to take medications as prescribed may increase the risk of infection, pain, or treatment failure.

Changes During Treatment

Despite careful diagnosis and planning, unforeseen conditions may arise during treatment that require modification or addition to the planned procedure. For example, a tooth initially planned for a filling may require root canal therapy once decay is fully evaluated. You authorize your dentist to make reasonable changes necessary to protect your oral health.

Jaw Joint (TMJ) Risks

Keeping your mouth open for extended periods may cause soreness, clicking, locking, or discomfort in the jaw joint (TMJ).

These symptoms are usually temporary but, in some cases, may persist and require evaluation by a specialist (at your expense).

Nerve & Tissue Risks

Dental treatment may involve risk of injury to nerves of the lips, tongue, teeth, gums, or face. Possible outcomes: numbness, tingling, burning, or altered sensation. Usually temporary, but in rare cases may be permanent.

Other risks: minor bleeding, bruising, swelling, infection, or delayed healing.

General Risks of Dental Treatment

- Pain or sensitivity following treatment, which usually improves with healing.
- Discomfort from anesthesia injections, including minor bruising or swelling.
- Breakage or loosening of dental work (fillings, crowns, bridges) during or after treatment.
- Jaw muscle soreness or stiffness after long appointments.
- Rare risks include accidental swallowing or inhalation of dental materials or instruments.
- Sometimes treatment is not successful and may need to be redone, changed, or followed by a different procedure.

Specific Treatment Risks

Fillings:

- Tooth sensitivity following placement, usually temporary.
- Risk of fracture or recurrent decay requiring replacement.

Crowns & Bridges:

- Teeth may require root canal treatment after crown/bridge placement.
- Crowns and bridges may loosen, break, or need replacement over time.

Root Canal Therapy:

- Risk of post-treatment discomfort or infection.
- Possibility of needing retreatment, surgery, or extraction.
- Risk of instrument separation (a small file breaking inside the tooth).

Extractions:

- Bleeding, infection, swelling, and discomfort.
- Dry socket (pain due to loss of the healing blood clot).
- Possible injury to adjacent teeth, nerves, or sinuses.
- Rare risk of fractured jaw or bone spicules (sharp edges of bone).

Dentures & Partials:

- May feel loose or uncomfortable initially; require adjustment.
- May cause sore spots, difficulty speaking, or chewing challenges.
- Need for periodic relines or replacement as the mouth changes.

Implants:

- Require sufficient bone and healing ability.
- Risk of infection, implant failure, or rejection.
- Possible damage to surrounding structures (sinus, nerves, adjacent teeth).

Orthodontic Treatment (if applicable):

- Tooth soreness or irritation of gums and cheeks.
- Possible root shortening or gum recession.
- Retainers required to maintain results after treatment.

Use of Nitrous Oxide (Laughing Gas):

- Generally safe, but may cause nausea, dizziness, or drowsiness.
- Rare allergic or adverse reactions.

Periodontal Care

Patients diagnosed with periodontal disease do not qualify for prophylactic (standard) cleanings. Our office will not perform a prophylaxis in place of scaling and root planing (SRP) or periodontal maintenance therapy. Providing a "prophy" when SRP or maintenance is clinically indicated is inconsistent with the standard of care, is not covered by insurance, and places both the patient and provider at risk for worsening disease.

If you are diagnosed with periodontal disease, you must follow the treatment protocols recommended by your dental provider. Refusal to proceed with appropriate periodontal care may result in dismissal from the practice, as we cannot provide incomplete or substandard treatment.

No Guarantees

Dentistry, like all healthcare, involves risks. While every effort will be made to achieve the best outcome, no guarantee can be made about the results of treatment.

Treatment success depends on many factors, including your overall health, oral hygiene, and compliance with care instructions.

Patient Responsibilities

To achieve the best results and reduce risks, you agree to:

- Provide a complete and accurate medical history, including medications, allergies, and health conditions.
- Follow all home care and after-care instructions provided by your dental team.
- Take prescribed medications exactly as directed.
- Confirm appointments no later than 24 hours prior or the appointment may be released to another patient on our waitlist. Cancellations/reschedules require at least 48 business hours' notice. Fees and deposits may apply per the Appointment Policy.
- Maintain financial responsibility for all services, deposits, fees, and payment plan terms per the Financial Agreement Policy.
- Understand that treatment and financial information will not be shared with parents, guardians, stepparents, or others unless an Authorization to Release Financial and Treatment Information form is completed.

Emergency Authorization

In the event of an unforeseen medical emergency, I authorize the dentist to perform any life-saving measures deemed necessary until emergency medical services are available.