**About your new denture (PARTIAL, COMPLETE AND IMMEDIATE)**

A denture is fabricated (made of acrylic, or a combination of metal and acrylic) to replace some or all of your missing teeth. The procedure typically requires a few appointments during fabrication and may take several weeks to complete.

**Alternative Treatment Options**: Alternatives to denture(s) may include restorative treatment (periodontal therapy, endodontic (root canal) treatment, crowns, bridges, implants, etc.) or no treatment at all. Please note that postponement of treatment may result in future pain, infection, bone loss, and/or loss of the tooth/teeth.

Dentures are not natural teeth and may not function like natural teeth. Becoming accustomed to wearing, functioning, and speaking with dentures takes time, effort, and commitment on behalf of the patient. Dentures may, at times, feel loose or become loose due to changes in the supporting structures of the jaw(s) and remaining teeth, if any. Denture(s) (partial or full) treatment results are subjective; thus, the outcome of the Treatment Plan may not completely meet your expectations.

Denture(s) (full or partial) made within Twelve (12) months of tooth/teeth extraction(s) may become ill fitting as the gum tissues around the extraction site(s) shrink, which may require the denture to be temporarily relined within those months (2 temporary relines are included with treatment at no charge). After 12 months, the Denture(s) will require a permanent reline or replaced at an **additional cost**. If gum tissue is inadequate, the denture (partial or full) could become difficult to wear, and could require the aid of denture adhesive in order to be worn. Dentures, implants and/or natural teeth (specifically with partial dentures) still require regular brushing, flossing and continued care. Dentures (full overdentures or partial dentures) do not protect your teeth, supporting bone and gum tissue from decay or periodontal disease. **Adjustments are often needed with new dentures, and will be included in the original fee for 3 months following delivery of the dentures, after which our regular adjustment fee of $65.00 will be incurred.**

Risks and Limitations include:

Looseness of denture, Difficulty wearing denture, Food particles slipping under denture, Soreness of gum tissues, Shrinkage of gum and bone, use of denture adhesive, new medication with oral side effects, breakage or wear of denture, Need for reline, readjustment or replacement (additional cost after 3 months), and Change in speech or appearance.

**POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR DENTURES (FULL, PARTIAL, IMMEDIATE)**

**New Dentures**:

- Most new dentures require an adjustment period. This period will require the patient and the denturist to work together for the best result for you and your dentures.

- Start slowly with a new denture. Eat easier, softer foods first before attempting to chew more challenging foods. Also, practice speaking with your new teeth. Even if your new dentures are very similar to a previous set, there will differences that will require you to learn to eat and speak again.

- Dentures will not fit as well as they can initially. It generally takes hours and maybe several days for a new set of dentures to settle into the tissue of the mouth.

- After several days of trial wear with a new set, you will generally be instructed to return to us for a check. Adjustments can then be made based on your experiences. Any soreness of the gums, looseness, difficulties with chewing, or difficulties in speech can be evaluated. Your denturist can than make any necessary adjustments or give you suggestions for dealing with any concerns that you have.

- The most important way of caring for your dentures is to brush them at least once a day – inside and out! You can use a soft tooth brush or special denture brush. Occasional soaking in a denture cleansing solution can be helpful. Generally, soaking on a weekly basis followed by a thorough brushing will be adequate. **DO NOT USE TOOTHPASTE**.

- Take care not to drop your dentures when cleaning them. It is helpful to clean your dentures over a washcloth or over a sink full of water to prevent breaking the denture if dropped.

- Dentures require regular professional care. We suggest that all denture patients have their dentures and gum tissue checked on a yearly basis. This assures that any problems are identified and corrected before damage is done to the mouth. Adjustments and relines can be made to the dentures that will keep them working and fitting well for a longer period of time.

- Most often, it is best to sleep with dentures out of the mouth. This gives the tissues of the mouth a chance to breathe, and will help avoid bacterial and fungal colonies from developing under your dentures. In some instances, a patient’s jaws or muscles need the support of dentures while sleeping. These patients will feel better sleeping with their dentures in place.

**Immediate Surgical Dentures**: Immediate Dentures involve the fabrication of the dentures prior to the removal of existing teeth. This type of procedure adds some complexity to the treatment as the new dentures cannot be tried in accurately prior to final delivery. Therefore, there is some amount of “guess work”. Immediate dentures require more attention and patience as the bone and supporting structures in the mouth will exhibit significant resorption and shrinkage shortly after delivery of the dentures. This results in a denture that can become loose in the initial months following treatment. As the gum tissues around the extraction site(s) shrink, it will require the denture to be temporarily relined **(2 temporary relines are included with treatment at no charge after which our discounted fee of $80.00 per denture will be incurred)**. These are placed depending on how fast your gums shrink and are placed to improve the fit.

A reline, and rarely, a new permanent denture, will be recommended after the first 12 months following initial treatment. Your Denturist may also have some special instructions for you if you have had an immediate denture procedure completed. These instructions may include an immediate follow up appointment within 1-3 days following the extractions/delivery appointment to check for healing and sore spots that may require adjustments. Your Denturist may also suggest that you wear the dentures overnight for a period of time following the surgical procedure, along with salt water rinses.

**Partial Dentures**: Partial dentures must be removed 2-3 times per day and the remaining teeth brushed and flossed, as the partial denture will not protect remaining teeth from decay or periodontal disease.

**Full Lower Dentures**: Full lower dentures often don’t fit as tightly as an upper denture. Should you experience severe looseness of your lower denture, please inquire about implant anchors for the lower jaw. Implant supported dentures can often provide you with a much more natural feel and security while eating and talking.