



Patient Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Often an accompanying parent or legal guardian must relay treatment information to another individual after leaving our office. To help precipitate this process without the loss of vital information, we offer the following treatment definitions, which should help enable parents and guardians to better understand and remember such recommendations. Please also feel free to contact us directly should you encounter any questions or concerns prior to your child's scheduled treatment appointment.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Pulpotomy.** Partial removal of an infected nerve followed by the placement of a medication to preserve remaining tissues. Requires placement of a stainless steel crown to protect the remaining fragile tooth. An alternative option includes extraction with placement of a space maintainer.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Pulpectomy.** Complete removal of an infected nerve followed by the placement of a medication to fill the nerve chamber and eliminate bacteria. Requires placement of a full coverage restoration to protect tooth. An alternative option includes extraction with placement of a space maintainer.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Direct & Indirect Pulp Cap.** The application of a medication directly or indirectly onto the nerve of a tooth after removing extensive dental decay. This treatment is used to promote healing of the nerve, provide protection against hot & cold stimuli and to avoid the need for a root canal.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Stainless Steel Crown.** Silver-colored crown placed overtop a tooth, which has suffered excessive destruction and/or complete or partial removal of its nerve. An alternative treatment includes extracting the tooth in question with subsequent placement of a space maintainer.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Open-Face Stainless Steel Crown.** Silver-colored crown containing a white veneer, which is placed over front teeth following extensive tooth destruction or complete removal of the nerve. This restoration provides excellent protection and good esthetics. Usually recommended when a minimal amount of healthy tooth structure remains after removal of decay. In certain cases, an alternative treatment may include fabrication of a strip crown or extraction of the tooth.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Strip Crown.** Complete coverage of a front tooth using white restoration material. This restoration offers ideal esthetics for front teeth, but is limited in its use due to the need for an ample amount of remaining tooth structure. Alternative treatments include fabrication of an open faced stainless steel crown or extraction.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Composite Resin Restoration.** An esthetic, white-colored tooth filling. Alternative treatment to this restoration is placement of an amalgam; a silver, mercury-containing restoration.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sealants.** White-colored tooth filling material used to fill pits & fissures commonly found on the tops and sides of the permanent molars. This procedure is a preventive measure typically recommended just after a tooth completes the eruption process. An alternative treatment is to not have this preventive restoration completed, subsequently risking the development of dental decay on these surfaces and ultimately requiring an invasive dental restoration.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Temporary Filling.** Placement of a provisional filling material to provide temporary protection from possible symptoms and/or to allow for short-term observation of a tooth prior to presenting definitive recommendations or completing such treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Extraction.** Removal of a tooth due to excessive dental decay, abscess, trauma, over-retention, space management issues or various other reasons. Alternative treatment is to not have the recommended tooth extracted with an understanding that this may lead to pain, infection, damage to underlying permanent tooth, space difficulties, abscess and/or more severe complications.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Frenectomy.** Release of thickened connective tissue from beneath the tongue (*sublingual frenum*) or upper lip (*labial frenum*). Thickening of this tissue can inhibit the natural cleaning motions of the tongue, can affect speech and may cause unattractive spacing between the permanent front teeth. Thickening of the sublingual frenum leads to an increased risk for dental decay within the back teeth and may influence an individual's speech pattern. The alternative to this treatment is to not have this surgery completed with an understanding of the patient's ongoing limitation and inability to provide self-cleansing for the most posterior teeth or maintenance of unesthetic spaces between the front teeth.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Nitrous Oxide.** Inhalation agent that minimizes anxiety, decreases gagging reflexes and dries the mouth. Also known as "*laughing or goofy gas*." Alternative options may include oral conscious sedation, intravenous sedation or completion under general anesthesia within a hospital setting.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Oral Conscious Sedation.** Use of an oral sedative medication to help overcome dental anxiety during the administering of dental treatment in young patients, individuals with handicaps or those with mild to moderate dental phobias. Alternative treatments include use of nitrous oxide during multiple visits, intravenous sedation or delivery of treatment under general anesthesia within a hospital setting.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Intravenous Sedation.** Use of intravenous medications provided by an anesthesiologist to help precipitate the delivery of dental treatment in younger patients, handicapped children, patients suffering from extensive dental phobias or when oral conscious sedation has previously been ineffective. Alternative options may include use of nitrous oxide during multiple dental visits, oral conscious sedation or completion of treatment under general anesthesia within a hospital setting.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hospital Dentistry.** Completion of dental treatment within a hospital setting while under general anesthesia. Such treatment is typically recommended for handicapped patients, young patients with extensive treatment needs, or those that are medically compromised. Alternative treatment modalities may include use of nitrous oxide, oral conscious sedation, or intravenous sedation.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Space Maintainers.** General term for one of several appliances used to eliminate the shifting of dentition after the premature loss of teeth. Space maintainers are either unilateral (*involve one side of the mouth*) or bilateral (*connect to both sides of the mouth*). Appliances include the Band & Loop, Distal Shoe, Lower Lingual Holding Arch, Nance Appliance or Transpalatal Arch. Placement of such an appliance will prevent subsequent shifting of the permanent teeth, leading to crowding and ultimately costly orthodontics.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Expanders.** General term for an orthodontic appliance used to correct dental crossbites and/or provide additional space for a crowded upper dental arch. The most commonly used expanders are the Quad Helix or the Rapid Palatal Expander.

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