

North Valley Family Dentistry

DENTAL PATIENT INFORMED CONSENT

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF COMMON RISKS AND/OR COMPLICATIONS, WHICH MAY OCCUR DURING AND/OR AFTER DENTAL TREATMENT AND/OR DENTAL SURGERY. THIS LIST DOES NOT ITEMIZE EVERY POSSIBLE RISK AND THE PATIENT OR GUARDIAN IS HEREBY ADVISED TO SEEK A SECOND OPINION REGARDING ANY DENTAL TREATMENT, WHICH THEY DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND. PLEASE READ THIS FORM CAREFULLY AND ASK ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU HAVE CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF YOURSELF OR YOUR DEPENDENT. YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE DENTISTRY IS NOT AN EXACT SCIENCE, NO SPECIFIC RESULTS IS PROMISED, OR GUARANTEED. ALTHOUGH THE STAFF AT NORTH VALLEY FAMILY DENTISTRY DOES NOT EXPECT YOU TO SUFFER UNNECESSARY COMPLICATIONS, YOU ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT IT IS A POSSIBILITY. YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS FORM IMPLIES THAT YOU UNDERSTAND, TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY, AND ACCEPT THE RISKS, AND/OR COMPLICATIONS WHICH MAY OCCUR DURING YOUR DENTAL TREATMENT. YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE RISKS HAVE BEEN ADEQUATELY EXPLAINED TO YOU IN A MANNER WHICH YOU UNDERSTAND, AND THAT YOU REALIZE THE FOLLOWING LIST DOES NOT REPRESENT A COMPLETE EXPLANATION OF EVERY RISK YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN THIS OR ANY OTHER DENTAL OFFICE.

1. X-rays are a form of radiation and should be avoided during pregnancy. If you ever visit this office while pregnant or suspicious of a pregnancy, it is YOUR responsibility to notify North Valley Family Dentistry and REFUSE X-RAYS. Since most dental procedures are diagnosed and treated with the aid of x-rays, you must understand that we will require you to receive x-rays for most of the procedures we provide. A lead apron has been provided for your use and protection.
2. The administration of local anesthetic will make you numb for 1 to 6 hours. You should bite carefully to prevent injuring yourself during this time. It will also leave you with soreness or discomfort at the injection for several minutes to several days. If this is unacceptable, then you should request that minor treatment be performed without anesthetic, or schedule your appointment for a time when this discomfort is not going to be a problem.
3. A routine injection may injure or sever a nerve, leaving you with long-term or permanent anesthesia or parathesia. A routine injection may also puncture a blood vessel, causing hemorrhage or hematoma. If this occurs, call our office. Further treatment may be necessary from North Valley Family Dentistry or a dentist of their choice.
4. Extraction of an erupted or impacted tooth or root tip may result in the same symptoms as described in item #3. Extraction of an upper tooth may result in loss of all or part of the tooth into a sinus cavity requiring further surgery from North Valley Family Dentistry or a dentist of their choice. It is possible for an upper tooth to be successfully extracted while still opening an oral/antral fistula into a sinus. If your sinus is exposed, you will likely require further surgery from North Valley Family Dentistry or a dentist of their choice. In the event either of these surgical procedures is required, you should avoid sucking on straws or blowing up balloons (or similar activities) for at least 6-8 weeks. If you feel unexplained air pressure leaking between your mouth and sinuses after an upper extraction, YOU are expected to call this office.
5. Teeth are often filled or crowned with gold, silver or other substances, which conduct hot, cold and other stimuli extremely well. Most teeth are sensitive from 3 days to 3 weeks; however, some teeth are sensitive much longer or perhaps permanently. If your sensitivity persists, you will likely require pulpal treatment or root canal therapy by North Valley Family Dentistry or a dentist of their choice. This sort of sensitivity generally results from large carious lesions, large restorations, large immature pupals, hairline cracks or reduction for fixed prosthetics: but HAS ALSO BEEN SHOWN TO OCCUR FOR NO KNOWN REASON.

6. Teeth that are crowned are often teeth, which have fractured or have been repeatedly filled. Even a perfectly healthy tooth must be substantially reduced to receive a crown. This is particularly true with tipped, crooked, or mal-occluded teeth. This reduction may cause sensitivity and can lead to future pulpal treatment or root canal therapy. Teeth, which have been crowned, NEVER have perfect margins. As you age or your gingival tissue recedes, the margin is exposed and may cause the tooth to be more sensitive. In some instances, the pulp must be treated and/or the crown replaced. Porcelain behaves like glass and can easily fracture by hard foods or a blow to the mouth. Some long fixed bridges flex enough to fracture the porcelain covering. Fractured porcelain prosthetics are seldom repairable. North Valley Family Dentistry does not accept responsibility for fractured porcelain since it is out of their control. The patient is, however, advised that the metal jacket coping adequately protects the tooth with or without the porcelain covering.
7. Pulpal treatment or root canal therapy involves the placement of tiny fragile instruments into a tiny, often restricted canal. These instruments can, and do, occasionally fracture inside the tooth. If this occurs, your attending dentist at North Valley Family Dentistry may attempt to remove the instrument or refer you to an Endodontist to have it removed. If it is not or cannot be retrieved, we will advise you of its presence. In many cases, the fractured piece actually seals the canal, so no further treatment is needed. While fitting a root canal, it is possible to extrude gutta percha or root canal cement beyond the apex of the tooth. Even during routine canal therapy, it is possible for painful symptoms persist. If symptoms persist following any of these circumstances you will likely require a surgical apico-ectomy and/or retrofill that may be performed by an Endodontist or dentist of their choice. If the symptoms are still not relieved, then it is likely that the tooth will require extraction.
8. Removable dentures and partial dentures are plastic and/or metal appliances that at best, are uncomfortable, clumsy and feel loose. Because they are not cemented in place, they rub your gingival tissue and cause frequent sore spots. Clasps on partial dentures rub on adjacent teeth and cause scarring and lateral torque. A partial clasp can cause food traps, periodontal disease, tooth decay and loss of adjacent teeth and cause scarring and lateral torque. You are advised to keep these appliances as clean as possible and have them examined regularly in this office
9. Crowns, fixed bridges, fillings, dentures, root canals and most other dental treatments are the dentist's attempt to correct or prevent dental disease. These forms of treatment are not intended to substitute for healthy teeth but rather substitute for unhealthy and/or missing teeth. Dental treatment is not always successful at first. Some teeth or appliances need to be retreated or treated differently and **SOME DO NOT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO ANY TREATMENT** and are eventually extracted. Dental treatment may succeed at first and then suffer recurrent caries, fractures, abscess or pain in the future. You should visit this office no less than once per year to give North Valley Family Dentistry the greatest possibility of serving you. **YOU** are encouraged to call if you ever have questions or complaints about your treatment. You will find the staff eager to make you comfortable.
10. Some patients present to the dental office with compromising health conditions. A history of A.I.D.S., heart disease, rheumatic fever, bleeding disorders, liver disease, hepatitis, kidney disease, lung disease; or an allergy of sensitivity to penicillin, erythromycin, codeine, Percodan, Hycodaphen, aspirin, Tylenol, Empirin, Xylocaine, Carbocaine, or Novocaine, may qualify you as an unjustifiable risk for this office. **YOU** are expected to circle any of the above conditions which you are **EVEN SUSPECTED** of having and notify North Valley Family Dentistry **IN PERSON**. **FAILURE TO DO SO COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH**. If you have a history of heart disease or other serious ailment, you will be required to have your physician consult with North Valley Family Dentistry to determine whether or not you can be safely treated in this office. Even when precautions are taken, it is possible that you could suffer an exacerbation of your condition and/or any of its related complications.
11. Prescribing medications is routine in a dental practice. Antibiotics are prescribed for the control of infection; narcotic and non-narcotic analgesics are prescribed for the control of pain. Sedative/hypnotics are sometimes prescribed for the control of anxiety. Fluoride tablets and rinses are prescribed for the caries reduction. **MANY OF THE PRESCRIPTIONS WRITTEN IN THIS OFFICE CAN AND DO REACT UNFAVORABLY WITH MANY OTHER MEDICATIONS**. If you are taking other medications at the time you are offered a prescription, **YOU** are expected to

remind North Valley Family Dentistry of all medications you are then using. If you are using or abusing controlled substances, marijuana, narcotics or any other drug (s), YOU are expected to give this information to North Valley Family Dentistry each time you receive a prescription from this office, so that we may substitute the medication or alter its dosage appropriately. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD RESULT IN DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY. Antibiotics often render birth control pills ineffective; appropriate precautions must be taken during antibiotic therapy.

I DO HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE BEEN INFORMED, TO MY SATISFACTION, OF THE RISKS AND/OR COMPLICATIONS OF THE DENTAL TREATMENT WHICH NORTH VALLEY FAMILY DENTISTRY AND/OR ASSOCIATES IS TO PROVIDE FOR ME (OR MY DEPENDENTS).

Signature of patient or guardian: _____ Date: _____