Skiffey Family Dentistry

Scaling and Root Planing Informed Consent

**Periodontal Disease**: Periodontal disease is an aggressive disease that involves the soft tissue surrounding the teeth (gum tissue). The causes of this disease are complex and may include genetic factors, hard and soft deposits on the teeth (plaque or calculus), and various bacteria and their toxins. Understand that this disease main be painless and symptomless or it may present with symptoms including bleeding gums, swelling, infection, bad breath, tooth and root sensitivity, gum recession, loosened teeth, and tooth loss. Periodontal disease weakens the support of your teeth by separating the gum from the teeth and destroying the bone that supports the tooth roots. If left untreated, periodontal disease can cause tooth loss and can have other adverse consequences to your general health.

**Scaling and Root planing Treatment**: Periodontal Scaling and Root planing treatment includes the removal of calculus(tartar), bacterial plaque, bacterial toxins, diseased root surface, and diseased tissue from the inner lining of the crevice surrounding the teeth. Post operative irrigation of the tissue with a medicated mouth rinse (Chlorhexidine) is applied to act an an antimicrobial to assist in the healing process. At the complete of the Scaling and Root Planing treatment a topical application of Fluoride varnish with be applied to the teeth to reduce sensitivity, remineralize the tooth and root surfaces and acts as an antibacterial agent. The purpose of this treatment is to reduce some of the causes of periodontal disease to a level more manageable by your individual immune system. It is important to understand that your own efforts with home care are just as important as the professional treatment. Tobacco use also negates treatment results. Depending on your response to this treatment and the severity of your disease additional treatment may be necessary. Additional treatment may include a second deep cleaning, periodontal surgery, or antibiotics.

**Treatment Risks**: This treatment may result in unintended consequences, including, but not limited to, bleeding; infection; tissue swelling or bruising; dislodgment of fillings or crowns; increased sensitivity to hot, cold, or sweets; exposure of crown margins; exposed root surfaces due to recession of gum line and reduction of inflammation; pain in the associated teeth and gum tissue; temporary or permanent numbness; and tooth mobility. The risks of declining treatment include but are not limited to increased recession of gum tissue and exposure of root surfaces, tooth mobility, continued infection of the gums and other supporting structures, tooth loss and the spread of infection to other sites in the body

**Drugs and Medications**: Drugs, medications, or anesthetic can cause allergic and other reactions. Examples include, but are not limited to, swelling, redness, itching, and numbness, or tingling of the lip, gum, or tongue (which in rare cases may be permanent). Since anesthetic may cause profound numbness, you should avoid hot beverages or hard foods until the numbness subsides. You must inform the dentist of all drugs and medications you are taking or have taken within the last 30 days, as well as all allergies and sensitivities.

**Periodontal Maintenance:** After scaling and root planing treatment you will need to return in 12 weeks for a Periodontal Maintenance recall and evaluation. At this appointment your response to treatment and your home care efforts will be assessed, any additional treatment recommendations will be addressed. Cancelling or delaying this appointment could result in the advancement of your periodontal condition. Periodontal disease is a chronic infection which requires ongoing vigilance and meticulous maintenance care in order to control its progression. In order to maintain periodontal stability and optimal oral health, frequently recall maintenance appointments are necessary. The frequency is based on the severity of periodontal disease, personal home care, and post-treatment periodontal stability. It is important to keep up with the recommended Periodontal Maintenance schedule to avoid progression of your periodontal disease. Please keep in mind, you have now been diagnosed with periodontal disease and a regular preventative prophylaxis (cleaning) is no longer sufficient. Periodontal Maintenance cleanings are considered “treatment” of a disease and include the removal of stain, plaque and calculus from the teeth, selective scaling and root planing of pocket depths in excess of 3mm, gingival irrigation Chlorhexidine when indicated and a full evaluation of pocket depths to determine the status of your disease. It is important to note that your insurance may not cover the entire cost of your Periodontal Maintenance cleaning. Often times this service applies to your deductible and may be covered at a percentage less than 100%. Some insurance plans will not cover any percentage of this expense. It is important to check your insurance plan for more details. At your request, our front office staff would be happy to help you determine your coverage for this treatment.

**Consent**: I understand that complications may occur during or after treatment. These have been explained to me and I have been given a chance to address any questions or concerns I may have. I acknowledge that there is no method to predict how the gum and bone will heal following any periodontal procedure. Because each patient’s condition is unique, long-term success may not occur. In addition, the success of treatment can be affected by medical conditions, dietary and nutritional problems, smoking, alcohol consumption, medications and inadequate oral hygiene. I understand that after the proposed treatment is completed, a constant monitoring of my condition will be necessary. This will mainly consist of regular 3 or 4 month recall visits to the office. I understand that my personal oral hygiene is the key to a successful treatment outcome. If satisfactory plaque control is not maintained, recurrence of periodontal disease is likely.