

PEDIATRIC (CHILDREN'S) DENTISTRY

Patient Name: _____

Date: _____

You have the right and obligation to make decisions regarding your healthcare and the care provided to your child. Your cooperation and participation in the decision making process is necessary. When providing dental care to a child, special circumstances may arise.

1. **Preventing Injury:** The most difficult issue when treating children is controlling the child so that no injury accidentally occurs to the child as a result of an abrupt movement. In some cases, it might be recommended the child be sedated prior to the treatment. Additionally, various restraining devices may also be necessary to ensure the safety of the patient and the dental care team during treatment.
2. **Numbness in the tongue, lips, jaw and/or facial tissue** resulting from the administration of local anesthetic. Numbness may be present following treatment. During the period of time there is numbness, the child should be monitored and reminded not to bite or chew on the numb area and be careful drinking liquids. Any numbness which appears to last longer than 24 hours should be reported immediately to the dental care team.
3. Below are some common occurrences in pediatric dentistry:
 - Cavities in children. Because of the nature of deciduous (baby) teeth, coupled with difficulty in brushing and flossing regularly, cavities can occur very quickly. Special care is needed to avoid these problems. Preventative measures include fluoride treatments, placing sealants, thorough brushing, flossing, control of sweets and acids in the diet, coupled with regular dental checkups.
 - Fractures and broken teeth. Due to the fragility of the deciduous (baby), it can be difficult to secure large fillings in these teeth. If the child's tooth is unable to retain a filling or if the cavities are initially large, the dental care team may recommend the placement of crowns on the teeth in order to preserve them until the teeth fall out as a result of the maturity process.
 - Pulpotomy is a treatment where the pulp tissue in the upper part of the tooth is removed and replaced with various filling materials so the tooth is preserved, space is maintained as well as chewing ability until the permanent tooth replaces the deciduous tooth. The dental care team may recommend this procedure due to the thinness of the enamel of the deciduous tooth or rapid decay in the teeth. However, in spite of these efforts to save the tooth, extraction may still become necessary.
 - Abscesses. Deciduous (baby) teeth are particularly susceptible to abscesses. Abscesses can occur if the pulp tissue of the tooth has become infected. This is a very painful event with swelling. Abscesses can occur as a result of traumatic injury to a tooth as well. The office should be contacted immediately if you suspect an abscess.
 - Extraction and space maintenance. It may be impossible to save a tooth so the dental care team may recommend extraction. Maintenance of space is important for the permanent

teeth. Therefore, it may become necessary to insert an appliance known as a space maintainer. These devices can either be fixed or removable.

By signing below, I am acknowledging I have read or had this document read to me in its entirety, have had the chance to ask questions and have them answered to my satisfaction so that I feel I understand the information as it is presented. I understand the potential risks, complications and side effects. I understand dentistry is not an exact science and the dental care team cannot make any promises or guarantees of the outcome or result. I have elected to proceed with this dental treatment after having considered both the known and unknown risks, complications, side effects and alternative treatment methods.

Parent (or Legal Guardian) Signature: _____
Date: _____

Doctor's Signature: _____
Date: _____

Witness Signature: _____
Date: _____

SAMPLE