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## **COMPLETE/PARTIAL DENTURE CONSENT**

This leaflet is put together for information and consent purposes. It is to guide you through the limitations of removable teeth.

It is important that you understand that the process of fabricating and fitting removable prosthetic appliances (complete or partial dentures) includes risks and possible failures. Even though the utmost care and diligence is exercised in the fabrication of dentures, in themselves, dentures can be difficult to adjust to, so it is important that you are realistic in what you expect.

### **Why do I need dentures?**

It is important to replace missing teeth to prevent tilting of neighbouring teeth, and overloading of your remaining teeth. Dentures also obviously restore cosmetics, and some function.

### **What are the alternatives?**

- No teeth
- Implants
- Bridges (only if you have sound and healthy neighbouring teeth)

### **How long will it take to make dentures?**

Dentures are a precise device, and therefore take several visits to construct. The first and second visits are to take moulds of your teeth, your third visit is to measure how you bite, and the fourth visit is a trial stage (a little like a dress fitting or suit fitting), and this visit is crucial to ensure everything is correct. Sometimes, several of these trial visits are required until you and the dentist are completely happy with how they look and feel.

We advise you to bring someone with you at the trial stage appointments. That person should be someone whose opinion you trust. Not everyone bring someone with them, as often dentures are private, so you don't have to bring someone with you. Don't worry if it is just you – we are just as critical as your friends may be, and if we don't think it looks right, we won't accept the trial either. We will do as many trials as we feel necessary until they are perfect – that means you and us thinking they are perfect. That way, you get the best end result.

This means, dentures are not made quickly – they are made with some care and attention. Each appointment is two weeks apart. There are a minimum of four visits, and there is no maximum



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appointments – we just keep going until the trial is perfect. So, please bear this in mind – we cannot give you an accurate timescale for how long the denture making process will take.

### **Adjusting to new dentures**

A new set of dentures that are held in place only by gum and bone, and no implants, i.e. removable teeth can be difficult to become accustomed to, even if you have worn dentures for years.

When you have had your previous set of dentures for years, they feel comfortable because your lips, cheeks, tongue and soft tissues have become accustomed to how they feel. Often the soft tissues play a big part in keeping the dentures in place, especially for patients with little bone. This means your lips and soft tissues hold the dentures in place rather than your bone. Therefore, when you have new dentures, as your lips are not used to the feel of these new dentures, they may feel loose for a while until your lips and soft tissues get used to how they feel. During this period, your new dentures may feel loose, tight, uncomfortable, unstable etc at certain points.

### **What happens if I am struggling with my dentures?**

We are here to support you throughout the process of having dentures made, and afterwards! For the first six months, any adjustments made, within reason are free of charge. For the first few weeks, you will need to come back several times to have the denture adjusted – this is quite normal. The dentures are made on hard plaster of Paris models. Your gums are more sensitive to pressure, so the denture may be painful in some areas and need adjustment.

To start with, just like a new pair of shoes, your dentures may feel fine, and then when you have worn them all day, they may dig in or cause ulcers where they are a little tight. This will not ease – you need to come in for us to make adjustments for this. It is important if the dentures are rubbing that you wear them for at least a few hours before coming in, so that we can pin point the exact spot that needs to be adjusted.

It is important, despite any problems you may experience that you persevere with wearing the dentures; otherwise you will never get used to them. We will help you along the way by seeing you for "review appointments" whilst you are getting used to them, and making any adjustments to make them, more comfortable.

I have read and understood the risks, benefits and alternatives to dentures, and give my consent to proceed with treatment.