ROOT CANAL TREATMENT INFORMED CONSENT

Patient Name: _____ Treatment Date: _____ Tooth/Teeth: _____

Purpose of Treatment

Root canal treatment removes infected or damaged pulp (nerve tissue) from inside the tooth. The canals are cleaned, disinfected, sealed, and the tooth is restored to help relieve pain, eliminate infection, and preserve the natural tooth. While root canal treatment has a high success rate, no guarantee of success can be made.

Treatment of Dental Abscess

If an abscess (infection) is present, I understand that the infection must be treated before a root canal can be completed. Treatment of the abscess is a separate procedure and is **not included** in the fee for the root canal. An additional fee will apply for abscess treatment.

I understand that treatment of the abscess typically requires placement of medication inside the tooth to control the infection. The medication must remain in place for approximately **7 to 10 days** before the root canal can be completed. I understand that I must return for the scheduled follow-up appointment to complete the root canal. Failure to return for treatment or delaying completion of the root canal may result in continued infection, pain, swelling, additional treatment, or possible loss of the tooth.

I understand that if abscess treatment is required, the root canal cannot be completed during the same appointment. Treatment of the abscess and the root canal are separate procedures with separate fees. Payment for each procedure is due in accordance with the office's financial policy.

Risks and Possible Complications

I understand that root canal treatment may involve the following risks:

- The treated tooth becomes more brittle and is at greater risk of fracture.
- A permanent crown or full-coverage restoration is usually recommended to protect the tooth. Delaying or declining the recommended restoration increases the risk of fracture and tooth loss.
- Infection may persist or recur despite careful treatment because of the complex anatomy of the root canal system or hidden bacteria.
- Some canals may be difficult or impossible to locate or fully clean, which may reduce the long-term success of treatment.
- Additional treatment, retreatment, root-end surgery (apicoectomy), referral to a specialist, or extraction may become necessary.
- Temporary pain, sensitivity, swelling, bruising, limited jaw opening, or discomfort may occur following treatment.
- Dental instruments or filling materials may extend beyond the root or separate within the canal despite accepted standards of care.
- Unforeseen conditions may require changes to the planned treatment.

Existing Crowns or Bridges

If this tooth has an existing crown or bridge, I understand that:

- Access through the existing restoration may weaken or damage it.
- The crown or bridge may require repair or replacement after treatment.
- If the tooth supports a bridge, additional treatment or replacement of the bridge may be necessary.

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Alternatives

I understand my alternatives include:

- No treatment (which may result in worsening pain, infection, swelling, bone loss, or tooth loss).
- Extraction with or without replacement by an implant, bridge, or removable partial denture.
- Referral to an endodontic specialist.

Limited Warranty & Financial Policy

Root canal treatment has a high success rate; however, no treatment can be guaranteed to be successful.

As a courtesy to our patients, if the treated tooth requires retreatment within one (1) year of the original root canal performed in our office due to failure of the treatment, we will perform the retreatment at no additional charge, provided the tooth is restorable and the retreatment is clinically appropriate.

This limited warranty does not apply if treatment failure is due to:

- Failure to complete the recommended permanent crown or restoration.
- Fracture of the tooth.
- New decay, trauma, or injury.
- Failure to follow postoperative instructions.
- Treatment performed or altered by another dental office.
- If the tooth cannot be successfully retreated and extraction becomes necessary, the full fee for the extraction will apply. No credit, refund, or reduction of the original root canal fee will be applied toward the cost of the extraction or any replacement treatment, including an implant, bridge, or denture.
- Warranty coverage does not include refunds, reimbursement for treatment completed elsewhere, transportation expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering, or reduced fees for future dental procedures if treatment ultimately cannot be saved.

Crown Recommendation

I understand that a permanent crown or other recommended restoration is important to protect my tooth after root canal treatment. I understand that delaying or declining this recommendation significantly increases the risk of tooth fracture, treatment failure, and possible tooth loss.

Patient Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Dentist Signature: _____ **Date:** _____