

# Shelton DENTAL CENTER

## Consent for Complete or Partial Dentures

**Patient Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dentist Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Standard dentures and partials are made for people who are missing some or all of their teeth. The top denture relies on "suction" to retain it, and the hardness of the underlying tissues for its stability. Lower dentures have very little to no suction. Partial dentures can rely on metal clasps and anchors or can be very similar to a denture and rely on tissue suction and molding to retain them. It generally takes 4 or sometimes more appointments to make a set of standard dentures/partials.

The doctor has explained to me that there are certain potential risks in the procedure. These include:

1. Dentures are not a replacement for teeth. Dentures are a replacement for no teeth.
2. I understand that \_\_\_\_\_ may be (a) treatment alternative(s).
3. The denture is an addition to the mouth. It will take time to adjust to the denture flanges and extensions across the palate.
4. Once your dentures are delivered, you will usually need adjustments. The denture fee includes these adjustments for a period of three months and/or up to three appointments. After this period you will be charged for each additional denture related appointment.
5. Different people adapt at different rates, it may take months before the dentures feel natural.
6. All denture patients will have an adjustment period in order to learn to speak naturally with their new prosthesis. Words are formed by the tongue adapting itself in different positions relative to the teeth and palate. A new denture will change the shapes in your mouth. The tongue has a tendency to unseat a lower denture during function. Most people will adapt, if they stick with it.
7. With dentures your teeth will no longer be held in by roots. Muscles and suction will hold in the denture. A lower denture is harder to keep in place than an upper denture. This is because the upper denture covers the palate and creates a 360\* seal and a lower denture has no suction.
8. The lower denture has less surface area, therefore there is a greater tendency for the gums under the lower dentures to become sore from bite pressure. If there are continued problems with sore gums under the lower dentures a denture soft-liner or dental implants may be the solution. This will be at additional cost.
9. Denture wearers need to learn a new way to bite and chew. The front teeth are just for "show" and you will need to be able to learn to bite and chew on back teeth, where the ridges can support the bite.
10. I understand that I must leave my prosthesis out for 4-8 hours every day or I will do irreparable damage to my gums, bone and mouth. The long term effect of destructive denture wearing is a risk for: greater chance of infection, a shorter life for the denture, slow steady loss of gum tissue and supporting bone, future possibility of not being able to wear a denture at all.
11. Regular dental exams are essential to staying healthy and functioning well with a denture. The most important reason for dental patients to have examinations is to screen for oral cancer. It is also important to determine the appropriate time to reline a denture before it fits so poorly that damage to the tissues have occurred.
12. Gums and bone continually change under a denture. The time will come when your denture will need to be relined or remade. That time can be as short as 6 months or as long as 8 years.



Unforeseen conditions may arise that require a procedure that is different than set forth above and require a referral to a specialist. I authorize the doctor and any associates to perform such procedures when in their professional judgment the procedures are necessary.

The doctor has explained to me that the purpose of this procedure is to replace teeth that are missing or extracted. The doctor has explained to me the treatment and the anticipated results of the treatment. I understand that this is an elective procedure and that there are alternative treatments and the doctor has explained the risks and benefits of the alternatives.

1. I give permission to have all/some of my teeth extracted and that the resulting condition will be that I have missing teeth.
2. I give my permission to a complete or partial denture being made to deal with the resulting condition of missing teeth.
3. I understand that complete or partial dentures have their own challenges and are not a complete solution to all of my dental problems.

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**Patient signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Doctor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Please do not hesitate to ask the doctor or the staff if you have any questions.

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**\*\*\*\*Summary of the Expected Visits for Dentures (partials or complete)\*\*\*\***

**1) The first appointment** consists of an oral examination, sometimes X-Rays, and a set of impressions of the upper and lower ridges (gums) and teeth, if any remain. Upon occasion, the dentist will recommend surgical alteration of the ridges to remove flabby tissue which will interfere with the stability of the denture, and sometimes to alter the shape of the underlying bone, allowing for a better fit. In some offices, the first set of impressions are used to make custom-fit impression trays for a second, more accurate impression. In this case, there will be one extra appointment in addition to the standard four discussed.



**2) The second appointment** consists of determining the tooth setup (when you smile, the teeth should be parallel to a line between the pupils of your eyes and centered down the mid-line of your face), and the correct relationship of the upper and lower teeth so that when you bite together, the upper and lower teeth line up correctly. This is done using a loose fitting denture base and a rim of wax to approximate the position of the teeth or a metal framework if it is a traditional partial denture.

Other parameters are determined such as the color, size and shape of the teeth that will be placed on the new dentures. Once these relationships are correct, the rims or metal framework are sent to a dental lab where they are used in fabrication of the wax tooth try-in.

**3) The third appointment** is called the "wax/tooth try-in". The lab returns the loosely fitting tray from the second appointment with the final plastic teeth lined up along the outer edge of the wax rim. The wax try-in looks just like a real denture, except that the base fits loosely on the gums, and the teeth are embedded in wax instead of plastic. At this point, if something is wrong, it can be changed.

**4) The fourth appointment** is the insertion date when the patient walks out of the office with new dentures. The plastic tends to shrink while being processed, so some adjustment is usually necessary before they will get the suction that you might associate with a new denture. The stability of the denture depends upon the condition of the ridges. (Up to three extra visits will be allowed for adjustments)