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## General Consent

Thank you for choosing our office for your dental care. We will work with you to help you achieve excellent oral health. While recognizing the benefits of a pleasing smile and teeth that function well, you should be aware that dental treatment, like treatment of any other part of the body has some inherent risks. These are seldom great enough to offset the benefits of treatment, but should be considered when making treatment decisions.

Benefits of dental treatment can include: relief of pain, the ability to chew properly, and the confidence and social interaction that a pleasing smile can bring. Nonetheless, there are some common risks associated with virtually any dental procedure, including:

1. **Drug or chemical reaction.** Dental materials and medications may trigger allergic or sensitivity reactions.
2. **Long-term numbness (paresthesia).** Local anesthetic, or its administration, while almost always adequate to allow comfortable care, can result in transient, or in rare instances, permanent numbness.
3. **Muscle or joint tenderness.** Holding one's mouth open can result in muscle or jaw joint tenderness, or in a predisposed patient, precipitate a TMJ disorder.
4. **Sensitivity in teeth or gums, infection, or bleeding.**
5. **Swallowing or inhaling small objects.**

While we follow procedural guidelines which most often lead to a clinical success, just like in any other pursuit in health care, not everything turns out the way it is planned. We will do our best to assure that it does. Please feel free to ask questions in regard to all dental procedures that are recommended to you.

I have read and understand the statements on this page:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature (if minor patient)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



In our continuing efforts to provide the most advanced technology and highest standard of care available to our patients, this practice is proud to announce the inclusion of the **ViziLite Plus** annual exam as an integral part of our comprehensive oral screening program and **Laser Bacterial Reduction** at your routine teeth cleaning appointments.

**One person dies every hour from oral cancer in the United States** – and the mortality has remained unchanged for more than 40 years. Late detection of oral cancer is the primary reason that both the incidence and mortality rates of oral cancer continue to increase. As with most other cancers, **age is the primary risk factor for oral cancer**. Though tobacco use is a major predisposing risk factor, **25% of oral cancer victims have no lifestyle risk factors**. According to the American Cancer Society, more women in the United States will be diagnosed with oral cancer this year than will be diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Clinical studies have determined that using ViziLite Plus after the standard oral cancer examination improves the dental professional's ability to identify and evaluate suspicious areas at their earliest stages. Early detection of pre-cancerous tissue can minimize or eliminate the potentially disfiguring effects of oral cancer and possibly save your life. ViziLite Plus is an easy and painless examination that gives this practice the best chance to find any oral abnormalities you may have at the earliest possible stage.

This practice prescribes the ViziLite Plus exam for all patients at increased risk, high risk and highest risk for oral cancer (adult patients age 18 and older and tobacco users of any age). With your permission, we will be performing the ViziLite Plus exam annually following the standard oral cancer examination of the oral cavity for a fee of \$ 45.00.

**Periodontal disease** affects approximately **80%** of adults and is a growing epidemic in our society. Understanding of this disease has increased greatly over the last few years. We now know that Periodontal Disease is a **bacterial infection in the pockets around teeth**. As such, we now not only treat Perio with removal of mechanical irritants and diseased tissue (your normal cleaning) but are also addressing the underlying infection that causes it. With that thought in mind, we recommend that all of our patients have their teeth decontaminated prior to cleaning appointments for three major reasons.

1. **To reduce or eliminate bacteremias.** During the normal cleaning process most patients will have some areas that may bleed, this allows bacteria that are present in all of our mouths to flood into the bloodstream and sometimes settle in weakened areas of our body such as a damaged heart valve or artificial knee or hip, etc. We pre-medicate those patients that we know have a heart condition or artificial joints with antibiotics so that these bacteria can't cause harm to these areas. Latest research shows that these oral pathogens have now been linked to a number of other diseases such as cardiovascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, low birth weight babies, diabetes, etc. Needless to say, anything that we can do to reduce or eliminate these bacteremias is a positive for our patients.
2. **To prevent cross contamination** of infections in one area of your mouth to other areas. Decontamination minimizes the chance that we may inadvertently pick up bacterial infection in one area of your mouth and move it to others.
3. **To kill periodontal disease bacteria** and stop their infections before they cause physical destruction or loss of attachment around your teeth.

The laser decontamination process is painless and normally takes about 5 – 10 minutes. Laser decontamination is \$ 30.00 and is NOT covered by insurance. Unfortunately insurance coverage is almost always behind the leading edge in high tech health care.

Please sign and date that you have received this information \_\_\_\_\_

***«FName» «LName» Date Signed***