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LETTER OF INFORMATION AND CONSENT

As a rule, excellent orthodontic results can be achieved with informed and cooperative patients. Thus, the following information is routinely supplied to anyone considering orthodontic treatment in our office. While recognizing the benefits of a pleasing smile and healthy teeth, you should also be aware that orthodontic treatment, like any treatment of the body, has some inherent risks and limitations. These seldom contraindicate treatment, but should be considered in making the decision to wear orthodontic appliances. Please feel free to ask any questions about this at the pre-treatment consultation.

MAINTAIN ORAL HYGIENE

We request that the patient's teeth are cleaned and all cavities filled before orthodontic treatment begins. We also recommend that the patient continue to visit their general dentist every six months for cleaning and cavity checks during the duration of orthodontic treatment.

DECAY, DECALCIFICATION AND GUM DISEASE

Decalcification (permanent markings), decay, or gum disease can result from poor oral hygiene. Excellent oral hygiene and plaque removal is a must. Careful brushing and flossing of teeth can accomplish this goal.

ROOT PROBLEMS

On rare occasions, the nerve of a tooth can undergo regression and may become non-vital as a consequence of pressure from orthodontic appliances. A tooth that has been traumatized from a deep filling or even a minor blow can devitalize over a long period of time with or without orthodontic treatment. An undetected non-vital tooth may abscess during orthodontic movement, requiring endodontic (root canal) treatment to maintain it.

In some cases, the root ends of the teeth are shortened during treatment. This is called root resorption. Under healthy circumstances the shortened roots are no disadvantage. However, in the event of gum disease later in life, the root resorption could reduce the longevity of affected teeth. It should be noted that not all root resorption arises from orthodontic treatment.

STABILITY OF RESULT

Teeth shift during the lifetime of most individuals regardless of orthodontic treatment. With orthodontic therapy, teeth have a tendency to rebound to their original position after treatment without retention (retainers). We stress retainer wear for everyone at the conclusion of treatment. Full cooperation in wearing these appliances is vital. All retainer adjustments and visits will be included as part of the treatment fee for a period of one year. After the first year of retention, the patient will be seen on a fee per visit basis.

LATE GROWTH CHANGES

Occasionally, a person that has grown normally and in average proportions may not continue to do so. If growth becomes disproportionate, the jaw relation can be compromised. Skeletal growth disharmony is a biological process beyond the orthodontists control. This may require additional orthodontic treatment to address.

JAW JOINT PAIN

There is also a risk that problems may occur in the temporomandibular joints (TMJ, joints of the jaw). Although this is rare, it is a possibility. Tooth alignment or bite correction can improve tooth-related causes of the TMJ pain but not in all cases. Tension and muscle activity appear to play a role in the frequency and severity of the joint pains.

TREATMENT PROGRESS

Lack of facial growth, poor elastic wear or headgear cooperation, broken appliances and missed appointments are all important factors which could lengthen treatment time and affect the quality of the result. Instructions must be followed carefully. Additional charges will be made if there is a lack of cooperation which results in longer treatment time, and if either the active or retaining appliances are broken or lost through carelessness and require replacement.

CLEAR BRACES

Ceramic braces on the teeth may cause wear of the opposing teeth if in contact, or if the patient is a heavy grinder or has para functional habits not seen at the initial examination. If you ever feel as if you are touching braces at any point during treatment you should let your doctor know as soon as possible. Enamel wear can also occur if the patient does not attend regular appointments and remains unsupervised. If damage to a tooth does occur, enameloplasty/reshaping and/or restoration of the involved tooth/teeth may be necessary.

If for any reason we are forced, or decide to terminate the patient's treatment, the fee will be prorated for services rendered up to the date of termination. This takes cooperation from everyone, the orthodontic team, your family and most of all, the patient. We are thanking you in advance for your cooperation in these matters. If you have any questions at any time about any of these items, please do not hesitate to ask.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE AND AUTHORIZE THE DOCTORS AND STAFF AT CHARLOTTESVILLE ORTHODONTICS TO RENDER ALL NECESSARY ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Patient Name	Date	Parent Signature (if patient is a minor) or Patient Signature	Date

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