

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT REGARDING OUR TREATMENT PLAN FOR YOU

NORTH SHORE DENTAL ARTS, LLP, its doctors and staff (the "Practice") provides the following information to you related to your treatment plan.

Your Treatment Plan

The Practice will perform an examination and advise you of the present condition of your teeth and gums. Based on this exam and discussions with you, the Practice will recommend and present to you in a separate document a custom-designed treatment plan ("Treatment Plan"), which has the goal of improving the function and/ or appearance of your teeth and gums. Your treatment plan involves one of the following (perhaps along with other recommended dental procedures): veneers, crowns, bonding, inlays, onlays, whitening, root canal therapy, gum or tooth contouring.

Below are summary descriptions of some of these procedures. You will also be shown photographs or representations of the Practice's recommended procedures for you, hear the Practice's explanations, and/ or see multimedia presentations illustrating the primary procedures proposed for your treatment plan.

Descriptions of Certain Dental Procedures

Porcelain Veneers are shells of porcelain that are bonded to the teeth. They typically require some roughening or reduction of the outer tooth structure. The Practice doctors will endeavor to minimize the tooth reduction necessary under the circumstances to achieve the desired aesthetic and functional results. At a later visit, the veneers are bonded onto the prepared teeth. Veneers may be designed and fabricated in a variety of shapes and sizes to modify the appearance and function of teeth, including a V-shape that covers the front and backside of the teeth (for example, when opening a bite.)

Crowns are life-like looking tooth restorations made out of porcelain or porcelain plus other materials. A crown covers the entire tooth structure. Typically, more tooth structure is removed to prepare for a crown placement than for a veneer. Crowns may be recommended for teeth requiring additional support due to a loss of healthy tooth structure.

Bonding is a term that is commonly used to refer to the placement of composite resins on teeth. Bonding can be used to make a tooth colored filling for small cavities and repair broken or chipped tooth surfaces. It can also be used to close spaces between teeth.

Inlays or Onlays may be the recommended treatment when individual back teeth are broken down but retain enough healthy tooth structure to allow for restoration of certain voids in the tooth structure. The tooth is prepared much like normal filling or a short crown. The restoration material is custom fabricated out of composite resins, porcelain, or porcelain and gold and bonded into the void.

A Bridge is a placement made for missing teeth. It is composed primarily out of porcelain, which is bonded to adjacent teeth. These abutment teeth may require some reduction or crowning in order to support the teeth being replaced.

Whitening is performed by applying a peroxide gel to the teeth. This can be done in our office in an accelerated method or in a take home system. The peroxide reacts with the tooth structure to safely whiten the teeth. Porcelain or composite restorations will not whiten with peroxide.

Root Canal Therapy consists of the removal of the infected or irritated nerve tissue that lies within the root of the tooth. This is a possible risk when tooth structure is removed from a tooth or the tooth receives trauma. Usually in the same visit, the canal where the nerve is located will be reshaped and prepared to accept a special root canal filling material. The root canal is then sealed with a sterile, plastic material.

Tooth Contouring is the reshaping of existing tooth structure by removing small amounts. We give particular attention to the edges of the upper and lower front six teeth, which may be reshaped to create a more aesthetic result.

Gum Contouring is the reshaping of the gum tissue, which is many times done to give a more symmetrical appearance.

Custom Preparation

Each person is unique and presents a different set of circumstances. Some of these circumstances are not revealed until during the procedure itself (for example, decay hidden under old crowns, etc.) or after. Therefore, the exact nature of the tooth and gum preparation for your Treatment Plan may vary somewhat from tooth to tooth and may vary from the general descriptions you have read above or seen elsewhere depending on the amount decay (if any) present, the shape (e.g., gaps, chips, size) and position (e.g., the amount of rotation, spacing or flaring) of the teeth, and the desired look and function of the final restorations. As a result of these and other reasons, the exact nature and contours of the preparation of your teeth and the resulting restorations cannot be known until they are performed. During the course of treatment, unknown or unforeseen conditions may be revealed that necessitate a modification of the proposed Treatment Plan (e.g., a veneer preparation may become a crown prep.) The Practice doctors will exercise their professional judgement to perform a conservative preparation of your teeth and to make other necessary decisions regarding the means, manner and method of any procedures as they deem appropriate to achieve the desired results of the Treatment Plan, or as they otherwise deem advisable under the circumstance.