

Treatment Consent Policy for Brentfield Dental Centre

At Brentfield Dental Centre, we are committed to providing exceptional dental care while prioritising the well-being and informed choices of our patients. The purpose of our Treatment Consent Policy is to ensure that every individual receives comprehensive information about proposed treatments, surgeries, or procedures. Informed consent is a fundamental aspect of our approach to dental care, emphasising transparency, patient autonomy, and shared decision-making.

Why Informed Consent Matters:

Informed consent is not merely a procedural requirement; it is a cornerstone of ethical and patient-centred healthcare. This policy underscores our dedication to respecting the rights of our patients by providing them with the knowledge and understanding needed to make informed decisions about their dental treatments. We recognise the significance of clear communication in fostering a trusting and collaborative relationship between our dental team and our valued patients.

By adhering to this policy, we aim to empower our patients, promote open dialogue, and ensure that each individual feels confident and well-informed throughout their dental care journey. We appreciate your commitment to being an active participant in your oral health decisions, and we look forward to delivering the highest standard of care in partnership with you.

This Treatment Consent Policy applies to all dental treatments, surgeries, and procedures conducted at Brentfield Dental Centre. The policy encompasses a broad range of services, including but not limited to:

Routine Dental Procedures:

- Cleanings
- Fillings
- Extractions
- X-rays
- Dental examinations

Specialised Treatments:

- Root canal therapy
- Crowns and bridges
- Dental implants
- Orthodontic procedures
- Periodontal treatments

Oral Surgeries:

- Tooth extractions (including surgical extractions)
- Wisdom tooth removal
- Soft tissue surgeries
- Implant

Emergency Situations:

Urgent dental interventions required in emergency scenarios

This policy is comprehensive, ensuring that patients receive clear information and the opportunity to provide consent for various types of dental care. It applies equally to routine, planned treatments and emergency situations where immediate interventions may be necessary for the patient's well-being.

Patients are encouraged to seek clarification from our dental team regarding any aspect of their treatment and to actively engage in the informed consent process for their peace of mind and satisfaction.

Informed Consent Process:

At Brentfield Dental Centre, we prioritise patient involvement and understanding throughout the treatment process. Our informed consent process follows a comprehensive approach, ensuring that patients are well-informed about proposed treatments. The steps involved are as follows:

Initial Discussion:

The dentist will conduct a detailed discussion with the patient during the examination appointment, explaining the nature and purpose of the proposed treatment.

Information Disclosure:

The dentist will provide comprehensive information about the proposed treatment, including its objectives, procedures involved, and anticipated outcomes.

Patients will be informed of potential risks, benefits, and any viable alternatives to the recommended treatment.

Patient Understanding:

Patients are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification on any aspect of the proposed treatment.

The dentist will ensure that patients have a clear understanding of the information provided.

Discussion of Alternatives:

Patients will be informed about alternative treatment options, if available, along with the associated risks and benefits.

The dentist will address any concerns or questions related to alternative treatments.

Voluntary Agreement:

Patients will be given adequate time to consider the information provided. Consent for the treatment is entirely voluntary, and patients are free to decline or accept the proposed plan.

Documentation:

After obtaining consent, the clinic meticulously records the discussion details, encompassing the treatment plan, discussed alternatives, and the patient's agreement. Our commitment to transparency and patient autonomy ensures active involvement in dental care decisions. Patients are encouraged to engage in open communication, seek clarification, and make informed decisions. A comprehensive treatment plan outline is then created by our clinic, and patients may request a copy for their records. Prior to starting the treatment plan, patients are asked to review and sign, indicating their satisfaction to proceed.

Patient Education:

Our clinic prioritises patient education to ensure a comprehensive understanding of proposed treatments. This involves various methods, including informative materials, one-on-one discussions with the dentist, and any other personalised educational approaches. We believe an informed patient is empowered to actively participate in their dental care decisions. Our team is dedicated to providing accessible and clear information to address any questions or concerns patients may have about their proposed treatments.

Documentation:

Ensuring a thorough documentation process for obtaining consent is integral to our commitment to transparency and patient involvement. Our clinic employs consent forms as a crucial component of this process. These forms comprehensively outline essential information, including details about the proposed treatment and anticipated benefits. Additionally, the forms include a breakdown of the costs, providing a transparent overview of financial considerations.

To further enhance patient understanding, our consent forms incorporate visual aids, such as clear drawings of teeth, to vividly illustrate the nature of the proposed treatment. This visual representation aims to facilitate a more comprehensive comprehension for patients, ensuring they are well-informed before giving their consent.

Patients are provided with these consent forms, offering them an opportunity to review the specifics of their treatment plan in a clear and organised manner. It is our priority to facilitate an informed decision-making process, and the documentation ensures that patients have access to all necessary information before providing their consent. The completed and signed forms serve as a record of the patient's agreement and active participation in the decision-making process.

Capacity and Voluntariness:

It is imperative that consent is obtained from patients possessing the capacity to fully comprehend the information provided. Our clinic ensures that individuals giving consent

have the mental and cognitive capacity to understand the details of the proposed treatment, associated risks, benefits, and alternatives. This is fundamental in upholding ethical standards and ensuring that patients are actively involved in decision-making regarding their dental care.

Furthermore, our commitment to ethical practice emphasises that consent must be entirely voluntary. Patients should feel free to make decisions without any form of coercion or external pressure. We prioritise creating an environment where individuals can freely express their choices, fostering a sense of autonomy and ensuring that consent is given willingly and without any undue influence.

Consent for patients below 18:

When it comes to minors, our clinic acknowledges the importance of obtaining consent while considering their unique circumstances. Parental or legal guardian consent is mandatory for any proposed treatment, surgery, or procedure involving individuals below the legal age of consent. This applies to routine dental care as well as emergency situations.

We require the explicit agreement of a parent or legal guardian before proceeding with any treatment for minors. This ensures that those responsible for the well-being of the minor are actively involved in the decision-making process, providing necessary authorisation for the proposed dental care. Our commitment to ethical practice and the welfare of minors underscores the significance of obtaining proper consent from those legally responsible for their healthcare decisions.

Revoking Consent:

At our clinic, we prioritise the autonomy of our patients, and we understand that circumstances or preferences may change. Patients retain the right to revoke their consent at any stage of the treatment process. The process for revoking consent is straightforward, and we encourage open communication if a patient wishes to withdraw their agreement.

Patients can express their decision to revoke consent by informing their dentist or any member of our dental care team. We respect and uphold the patient's right to make choices about their care, and withdrawing consent will not impact the quality of service or their relationship with the clinic.

It is essential for patients to feel empowered and in control of their dental care decisions. Our commitment to ethical and patient-centred practices extends to recognising and facilitating the right to revoke consent as an integral part of ensuring patient satisfaction and well-being.

Review and Modification:

Our clinic is committed to ensuring that our Treatment Consent Policy aligns with the highest standards of patient care and ethical practices. As part of our ongoing commitment to improvement, we reserve the right to review and modify the Treatment Consent Policy as needed.

Any changes to the policy will be communicated to our patients promptly. Patients will be informed of modifications through various channels, including in-person discussions during appointments, posted notices within the clinic, and electronically through text messages. We value transparency in our communication and strive to keep patients well-informed about any updates to our policies.

Your understanding and cooperation in adapting to policy changes are crucial in maintaining the highest standards of care and ensuring a positive experience at our clinic. If you have any questions or concerns about the Treatment Consent Policy or its modifications, our team is readily available to address them and provide the necessary information.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, our Treatment Consent Policy underscores our dedication to delivering dental care with the utmost consideration for your well-being and informed decision-making. We believe that transparent communication and active patient involvement in the decision-making process are fundamental to a positive healthcare experience.

Key points of our policy include comprehensive patient education, transparent documentation processes, and a commitment to respecting patient autonomy. We appreciate your cooperation in embracing these principles and actively participating in your treatment planning.

Your commitment to the informed consent process not only empowers you in making choices about your dental care but also contributes to a collaborative and respectful patient-dentist relationship. If you have any further inquiries or require additional clarification on our Treatment Consent Policy, our team is here to assist you.

Thank you for entrusting us with your dental care, and we look forward to continuing to provide you with high-quality and patient-centred services.