

## ***YOUR PROVISIONAL RESTORATION***

### **What is a Provisional Restoration?**

A transitional restoration providing tooth protection, bite stabilization and dental function before fabrication of your permanent restoration. The provisional restoration is hand made from tooth colored acrylic to exact specifications for each individual patient. Hours of careful craftsmanship by the dentist and the dental laboratory are spent to ensure the quality of the product. Once made, it is fitted and adjusted personally by your dentist and monitored, over time, by the entire dental team.

### **Significance of the Provisionalization Process**

Every product made available to you from your car to the shirt on your back has benefited from a prototype (provisional) form of the permanent product. Testing and retesting ensures predictability and longevity in all man made designs. Why should the crowns or bridges on your teeth be any different? The long term benefit of testing your dental function, comfort, aesthetics and oral hygiene is central to the provisionalization process. The provisional restoration is used to:

1. **Test** the function and comfort of you new bite.
2. **Test** the aesthetics of newly restored teeth and gums.
3. **Test** your ability to effectively clean your newly restored teeth.
4. **Guide** gum healing around an anatomically correct tooth form and provide strategic unrestricted access to areas planned for gum surgery and root canal procedures.

### **How long are Provisional Restorations worn?**

The time you wear a provisional restoration depends on the existing condition of your teeth and gums. Your ability to consistently demonstrate satisfactory dental function, comfort and oral hygiene also influences the time a provisional restoration is worn. The includes healing time following gum surgery. Your treatment plan will include an estimate of provisionalization time.

### **How often will I be seen for Provisional Restoration Maintenance?**

Once it's delivered, a dental team member will periodically call you to verify and discuss your provisional restoration function, comfort, aesthetics and hygiene. Scheduled observation appointments will also provide the opportunity for clinical team members to inspect the restoration and your gum tissues. The time between these appointments will vary and depend upon your current level of function, comfort and hygiene.

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## **Provisional Restoration Homecare**

Learning to care for your provisional restoration is the first step toward caring for your permanent restoration. This process can be time consuming and a challenge, especially initially. Here are a few guidelines about provisional homecare:

1. Effective cleaning of your provisional restoration requires daily compliance and proper cleaning technique. Special cleaning instruments and hands-on instruction will be given when it is delivered. Now is the time to get (and stay) in the habit of brushing and flossing after every meal. When you brush, be sure to use a soft bristle tooth brush. When flossing, do so gently and be sure to remove floss from between teeth, with a sideways withdrawal rather than our toward the top.
2. Remember that our provisional is acrylic and cemented with provisional (not permanent) cement. Avoid hard or sticky foods like hard French bread and gum. If you have provisionals on your front teeth, cut up your apples and eat corn off the cob.

### **Can a Provisional Restoration come off?**

Yes. In fact, one benefit of using a provisional restoration is removal, by a dentist, before gum surgery or a root canal. This provides either the Periodontist (gum surgeon) or Endodontist (tooth canal specialist) with complete unrestricted access to the area planned for treatment.

**Provisional cement is weaker** than permanent cement. Therefore, a provisional may be prone to loosening if biting force against the restoratin is too great. Repeated loosening of a provisional restoration may suggest a potential problem with uncontrolled biting force. This problem may also result in cracking or a break in the provisional crown or bridge restoration and is corrected by adjusting the biting surfaces of the restoration. A provisional restoration has the potential to loosen, crack, and even break – that is a part of its diagnostic function.

### **Your Provisional Restoration loosens, breaks or falls off. Now what?**

Do not panic... Call your dentist and describe what has happened. You will be seen as soon as possible. If it's loose, an evaluation by your dentist is recommended to determine cause. Once identified, the necessary corrections are made and the restoration is recemented. Please note that a **loose provisional leaks creating a high risk condition for tooth decay**. Therefore, do not delay in contacting your dentist. If it has come completely off, inspect the provisional carefully. Is it cracked or completely broken? A broken provisional requires immediate attention by your dentist. Do not attempt to repair a broken provisional yourself. If you are unable to visit your dentist and your provisional has come off intact (without breaking) use a very thin application of denture type adhesive (i.e. Fixodent) to recement it. This is a very short term remedy and should not be a substitute for visiting your dentist.

### **Will I be charged for Provisional Restoration repairs, modifications and remakes?**

Yes. Broken or lost provisionals resulting from careless food choices, not wearing your Nightguard or "absentmindedness" are your responsibility – not the dentist. Please be responsible!