

## Treatment Planning and Goals

Our goal in recommending the best treatment to meet your specific dental needs is to help you have the best oral health possible. We usually begin with a consultation appointment to get to know each other and understand what your chief complaint is and what your goals are for care. If we both feel we can help you we will get good records to fully evaluate your situation. These consist of a Complete Oral, Head and Neck Exam, Photographic/Digital Images, Diagnostic Casts and Diagnostic mounting of those casts to evaluate your "bite" (occlusion) indirectly. Other imaging, "x-rays" may also be indicated. Each person's needs are evaluated for these and discussed beforehand.

After acquiring the diagnostic information needed, Dr. Hummert will discuss several potential treatment options and *you* will decide what is the best path for you. My treatment plan recommendation will be based on many years (38) of full-time clinical practice, teaching and research. In most cases, we will narrow you down to have two or three potential options, but we really want All options to be explained to you along with the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Using this information and the knowledge of your own personal situation - such as personal expectations, the time you have available for treatment and financial considerations - together with my years of successful dental practice we can, together, select the best plan for you.

In other words, I will do a thorough exam and diagnosis and give you options, and *you will tell me what you want to do for care.*

After we have agreed on a plan, I design treatment plan(s). This plan(s) will be discussed in detail outlining each step, timing and associated fees. After we have a definitive plan and agreement, your will sign the plan, you will be given a copy, and then we will move forward in treating you. We both need a clear understanding, whether it appears to be a simple straight forward treatment or a multi-staged treatment. While there can always be some changes or alternates during a longer plan, we will both attempt to stick to the originally designed plan.

Ultimately there will be several goals: stopping any active disease process, addressing the chief complaint, prevention of dental disease, minimal change to healthy tooth structure and gum tissue, and restoring teeth with materials that will last the longest with the fewest future problems. Implant options, where indicated, will also be discussed. Ultimately, I want you to have your teeth and any prosthesis that are - functional, a mouth that is pain-free, and an attractive, esthetic smile for years and years to come.

**If you have any questions about your treatment goals, please feel free to ask us.**