

PATIENT'S RIGHTS

In acknowledging our responsibilities to our patients, we demonstrate the respect we have for human life and the right of individuals to autonomy by committing to:

- **Providing oral healthcare utilizing the highest level of professional knowledge.**
We serve our patients according to the most current methods and understanding that doing so requires us to change and adapt as new technologies emerge throughout our practice life.
- **Maintaining a work environment which minimizes the risk of harm to our patients.**
This supports the moral imperative “do no harm”. We demonstrate our acceptance of this responsibility by adhering to all appropriate work safety and consumer protection laws and standards.
- **Serving all patients without discrimination.**
We oppose all forms of discrimination by intent or method and endorse nondiscriminatory behaviors, avoiding actions towards any individual or group which may be interpreted as discriminatory. This includes respecting the social and cultural diversity of the patients we serve.
- **Holding professional patient relationships in confidence.**
We treat all patient information, including conversations as privileged and will release such information only with expressed approval, or when required by law. When we discuss our patients with others involved in their care, we do so with discretion, according to the requirements of confidentiality.
- **Communicating with patients in a respectful manner.**
We exercise tact and diplomacy when communicating with our patients and provide information in a manner appropriate to individual levels of understanding. We are sensitive to individual communication styles and seek open, two way communication.
- **Taking action to promote ethical behavior and high standard of care by dental education students.** We are familiar with our ethical standards, make every effort to practice accordingly, and support ethical practice by other professional programs. We advocate the establishment of peer review systems and quality assurance programs as an expression of the respect we have for our patients and our profession.
- **Serving as a patient advocate, without regard to personal gain.**
We are willing to take personal risks in advocating for the needs of our patients as we have assessed them. This includes providing information they may need to make informed choices about their oral healthcare.
- **Providing patients with the information necessary to make informed decisions about their oral health.**
We acknowledge the need to:
 - *provide a description of existing oral conditions and the treatment proposed;
 - *describe fully the benefits and risks of all treatment options;
 - *provide all patients opportunities to ask questions and gain more information if needed prior to making decisions;
 - *allow the patient the opportunity to consent initially and to withdraw from treatment at any time, and;
 - *provide advance knowledge of the cost of treatment.

- **Referring the patient when their needs are beyond our ability or scope of practice.**
We accept responsibility for recognizing instances, when a patient should receive treatment from another oral healthcare provider; and to make appropriate referrals. It is our responsibility to refer patients to providers who are best qualified to meet their needs.
- **Acting to educate patients regarding high quality oral healthcare.**
We discuss quality of care issues in our regular contact with patients to inform them and stimulate their desire to seek high quality oral healthcare. This is consistent with our value of promoting the good of the public.

By signing below I acknowledge I have read and understand my rights.

Patient/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____