**Factors for the patient to consider prior to treatment and are included in their letter**

**Please note this list is not exhaustive and it is added to from time to time when new problems occur.**

**Cobalt chromium based partial dentures:**

**Upper and lower cobalt chromium based partial dentures**

Dentures are removable mechanical substitutes for missing living tissues and as such will always exhibit a small amount of movement when in the mouth, mainly when chewing food. I believe that you will adapt to this.

Careful handling and cleaning of the denture is required, because they can break if dropped on to a hard surface.

Rowan and I have designed the dentures in such a way that helps to protect the remaining natural teeth, so that they last for as long as possible. However, in the event that a tooth is lost, the dentures will be designed in such a way that allows an addition to the denture. If many teeth are lost in the future this may mean that the dentures are not useable and we need to come up with a new strategy.

The dentures will be retained by cast cobalt chromium clasps or gold clasps using the remaining teeth. The clasps will not damage the teeth when the denture is taken in and out. The dentures has been designed with a very specific path of insertion and withdrawal and as such the amount of “grip” required from the clasps will be minimal. I will teach you how to do take this in and out safely. These clasps and some of the metal work may be slightly visible when you smile broadly. I do not feel that this will detract from your smile.

There will be metal of the denture on the palate and the backs of the upper from teeth. This may be visible when you open your mouth wide and tip your head back.

Some of the natural teeth will require a small amount of grinding, to allow the denture to fit optimally. This does not damage the teeth.

Patients regularly ask how long their dentures and fillings will survive. Unfortunately, this is impossible to predict. As dentistry is not an exact science I cannot guarantee how long the work we provide will last. It is very important to understand that Rowan and I fabricate everything to the best possible standard we possibly can, using the highest quality materials and along with our expertise. However, as with all things involving moving parts, things wear out, break, snap, crack etc. and will fail eventually. I give a warranty on the work for 1 year once active treatment has finished, where problems occurring will be rectified free of charge. I cannot predict how long the restorations we provide will last. However, because everyone’s mouth is unique and some people are heavier than others on their teeth. I cannot be absolutely definite about this.

I calculate the time and appointments required as precisely as possible. However, owing to the nature of this type of dentistry additional visits may be required as necessary. If this is the case you will **not** be charged for the extra visits.

**Complete dentures:**

**Dentures**

Dentures are removable mechanical substitutes for missing living tissues and as such will exhibit movement when chewing food, talking and when the tongue and muscles of the mouth move. This should improve with time as you get used to the denture. The new dentures will be much more stable than your existing ones.

The new dentures will feel sore quite soon after fitting. This is normal for new denture, even when they are made to the best technical standards. This is why review appointments are necessary to adjust them. For you, I estimate 3 reviews will be necessary, owing to the flat lower ridge.

The new lower dentures will extend slightly further back in the mouth on the lower compared to your current lower denture. The extra extension is important in order to produce good suction (peripheral seal). I feel it is important for you to be aware of this prior to commencing treatment and I am confident that you will accommodate to this.

The new upper denture will extend slightly further back in the mouth compared to your current denture. The extra extension is important in producing good suction (peripheral seal). I feel it is important for you to be aware of this prior to commencing treatment and I am confident that you will accommodate to this

Some patients experience difficulties with speech following the fitting of new dentures. In most cases with the passage of time they are able to accommodate to this.

Learning to chew satisfactorily with new dentures usually requires at least 6-8 weeks, and sometimes longer, particularly in complex dental situations such as you, particularly in view of the flat lower ridge and your age (which means adaptation and learning takes longer). New memory patterns must be established in order for the muscles of the tongue, cheeks and lips to keep the dentures in position.

Initially the dentures may cause you to produce more saliva than normal. This gradually reduces over time, but you should be aware of the change prior to commencement of treatment.

Occasionally some of our patients require denture fixative in order to keep the dentures more secure. This is a very uncommon occurrence for my patients and I feel it will be very unlikely for you.

Careful handling and cleaning of the dentures is required, because they can break if dropped on to a hard surface.

The new lower denture we provide will fit and feel much better than the one you currently have once you have adapted to it. We will make it to the best possible standard using all of our skills and knowledge, giving you the best possible chance of being able to wear it comfortably. We are, however, reliant on your adaptation to the denture and it will require considerable practice and effort on your behalf to make it work. A similar analogy is learning how to use chopsticks instead of a knife and fork. In the unlikely event that the new lower denture is unsatisfactory for you, we may need to consider a more complex option to support the denture – i.e. dental implants. If after the above treatment you feel that you need an even more stable lower denture, we can consider placement of 2 dental implants, which will stabilise the denture. This is dependant upon enough bone being present for placing the implants. A CT scan would be required to assess this. The additional fees for the two dental implants securing the lower denture would be approximately £X. I am almost 90% sure this will not be necessary.

**General**

Patients regularly ask how long their fillings, porcelain crowns, onlays, bridges and dentures will survive. Unfortunately, it is impossible to predict this accurately. As dentistry is not an exact science it is not possible to guarantee how long dental work will last. It is very important that you understand that Rowan and I plan and fabricate our work to the best possible standard we possibly can, using the highest quality materials along with our many years of training, experience and expertise. However, as with all things involving moving parts, things wear out, break, snap, crack etc. and will fail eventually. In addition, the mouth is a unique, dynamic environment in constant use. Due to variations in human biology, some people are heavier on their teeth than others which can lead to aspects of their dental work wearing, chipping or coming loose sooner than for those who are less heavy on their teeth. I give a warranty on the work I provide for 1 year once active treatment has finished, where problems occurring will be rectified free of charge.

Once the work has been provided, the work is covered under a warranty for one year. After this year further treatment for items such as repairs, refurbishment and replacement are charged at my hourly rate of £X per hour (plus laboratory fees).

Once you are comfortable with the dentures, I would like to see you on a 12 monthly basis. I recommend that you see myself on an annual basis to check the dentures and the lining of the mouth. The fee for me to provide an annual review is currently £X and will involve cleaning the dentures in a machine, designed to clean dentures – Sympro.

I recommend that the dentures are replaced on a 5 yearly basis.

**Dental implants supported overdentures:**

Please be reassured that at no stage will you leave the practice without replacement teeth.

**Immediate interim dentures (before the definitive dentures are attached to the implants four months later)**

The dentures are immediately fitted after extraction of the teeth and do not attach to the implants until 3 months later. The interim dentures will not fit perfectly in the areas of the extracted teeth. This can be rectified by relining the dentures and using fixative (polygrip).

Immediate dentures are removable mechanical substitutes for missing living tissues and as such exhibit a small amount of movement when in the mouth, especially when chewing food. Making new definitive dentures, which attach to the implants, four months later will rectify this.

Some patients experience slight changes with speech and singing following the fitting of new dentures. In all cases my patients adapt to this and this normalises. I understand this is a very important aspect for you. If we need to alter the dentures or remake them Rowan and I will do this until you are as happy a possible with your speech and singing, as well as aesthetically.

Learning to chew satisfactorily with new dentures usually requires at least 6 - 8 weeks, and sometimes longer. New memory patterns must be established in order for the muscles of the tongue, cheeks and lips to keep the dentures in position. These muscles need time to learn what they should and should not do.

All patients with new dentures are different and experiences with new dentures cannot be compared to another person’s experiences.

Initially the immediate dentures may cause you to produce more saliva than normal. This gradually reduces over time, but you should be aware of the change prior to commencement of treatment.

**Dental implants**

Placement of dental implants is a surgical procedure. The number of implants inserted will be four in the front of the upper jaw and two in the lower jaw. Placement is under local anaesthesia and supplemented by intravenous sedation by Richard Oliver, Specialist in Oral Surgery.

Complications following surgery include amongst other things, pain, swelling, limited jaw opening, bleeding, infection, swelling and inflammation at the implant site. This is normally reported to be minimal by patients who have had the procedure. I will, of course, provide you with the necessary aftercare to minimise such effects. It is also possible in the area of the lower lip, skin, chin, gums and tongue to experience altered sensation, loss of sensation, increased sensation, numbness or tingling, which may be permanent. To place this in its correct perspective however, no patient for whom we have carried out implant surgery has experienced alteration or loss of sensation.

Following placement of the implants, it would be necessary for somebody to accompany you home and to stay with you that night - this is always sensible following any surgical procedure.

The gold locator abutments (figure 6), which secure the dentures, need to be kept clean with brushing with a toothbrush, on a daily basis. I will show you how to do this.

**Definitive dentures (attached to the implants)**

The definitive dentures are attached to the implants via the locator attachments the denture will be very secure. The dentures will need to be removed by you for cleaning on daily basis. I will show you how to do this.

The locator insert attachment inside the dentures will require replacement on a 12 – 18 month basis.

Careful handling and cleaning of the dentures is required, because they can break if dropped on to a hard surface.

I anticipate the denture and implants remaining serviceable between 5 - 10 years. However, because everyone’s mouth is unique and dentistry is not an exact science I cannot be absolutely definite about this.

**General**

I calculate the time and appointments required as precisely as possible. However, owing to the nature of this type of dentistry additional visits may be required as necessary.

Please do your best to avoid cancelling appointments. We have low numbers of patients, with very large overheads to run the practice and cancelled appointments have a considerable impact on our financial situation. If appointments are cancelled with less than 7 days notice for us to rebook we charge this at the full rate for the time unused. This is discretionary and we understand that occasionally this cannot be helped.

As dentistry is not an exact science I cannot guarantee how long the work we provide will last. This includes the dental implants. It is very important to understand that Rowan and I fabricate everything to the best possible standard we can, using the highest quality materials and along with our expertise. However, as with all things involving moving parts, things wear out and will fail eventually. I give a warranty on the work for 1 year once active treatment has finished, where problems occurring will be rectified free of charge. I anticipate the dentures remaining serviceable between 5 - 10 years. However, because everyone’s mouth is unique and some people are heavier than others on their teeth. I cannot be absolutely definite about this.

6 monthly check up intervals are recommended once you have been successfully treated, with your dentist. I am happy to help at any stage should you or your dentist wish in the future. My door is always open as needed.