

**INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING ROOT CANAL THERAPY**  
**SEAN P. COONEY, DMD, LLC**

Now that your root canal therapy has been completed, there are a few instructions you should follow to ensure that your discomfort is minimized.

**Soreness:** You may experience soreness for the first few days following your root canal procedure. This is completely normal and is usually helped by taking an over the counter medication such as Motrin/Advil or Tylenol. Any soreness that is not helped by either of these medications should be reported to Dr. Cooney.

If your tooth was in pain prior to starting the treatment, it may take a few days for the tooth to heal and be relieved.

If your tooth was not in pain prior to beginning treatment (likely because the tooth was abscessed or had a deep cavity that had not begun to hurt yet), your tooth may still be quite sore for a few days after treatment.

**Pain when chewing:** The filling that was placed in your tooth sits differently in your bite than what was there before your root canal. Chewing sensitivity is normal if the new filling is slightly high when you close your teeth (this may make you feel as if your tooth is taller than it used to be). This situation will not go away on its own and requires a minor adjustment of the bite by Dr. Cooney.

**Prescription for Antibiotics:** If you have been taking an antibiotic for your tooth or have been prescribed one during today's appointment, complete the medicine as instructed on the prescription bottle. Antibiotics have to be in your system for a specified amount of time to be successful. If you stop taking it before the prescription states, your tooth may become infected/re-infected. Never stop taking your antibiotics unless directed by Dr. Cooney.

**Prescription for Pain:** If you have been given a prescription for pain, please make sure that you take it according to the instructions on the prescription bottle. Also, keep in mind that while taking this medication you cannot drive or perform any activities where loss of focus might result in an accident. *If you find yourself needing to take large amounts of pain medicine at frequent intervals, please call our office.*

**Post-Operative Treatment:** Just about every tooth that has had a root canal required a crown. This is to prevent the now brittle tooth from cracking and falling apart. Broken down teeth treated with root canal therapy and left without the protection of a crown are in danger of having to be removed at an additional expense and time commitment.

If you have any questions or experience any difficulty after your root canal procedure, please do not hesitate to call our office at 636-349-0070.

**Remember, you just had a root canal procedure. Be kind to yourself.**      **Patient Initials** \_\_\_\_\_.