



**invisalign®**

# Informed Consent and Agreement for the Invisalign® Patient

## **Patient's Informed Consent and Agreement Regarding Invisalign® Orthodontic Treatment**

Your dentist has recommended the Invisalign system® for your orthodontic and aesthetic treatment. Although orthodontic treatment can lead to healthy teeth and provide important benefits, such as an attractive smile, you should also be aware that orthodontic treatment (including orthodontic treatment with Invisalign aligners) has limitations and potential risks that you should consider before undergoing treatment.

## **Device Description**

Invisalign aligners, developed by Align Technology, Inc. ("Align") consist of a series of clear plastic, removable appliances that move your teeth in small increments. Invisalign products combine your doctor's diagnosis and prescription with sophisticated computer graphics technology to develop a treatment plan which specifies the desired movements of your teeth during the course of your treatment. Upon approval of a treatment plan developed by your doctor, a series of customized Invisalign aligners is produced specifically for your treatment.

## **Procedure**

You will undergo a routine orthodontic pre-treatment examination including x-rays and photographs.

Your dentist will take impressions of your teeth and send them along with a prescription to Southern Cross Dental Laboratories (SCDL). Their experienced team will follow your dentist's prescription to create a software model of your prescribed treatment.

Upon approval of the treatment plan by your doctor, SCDL and Align Technologies will produce and mail a series of customized aligners to your dentist.

The total number of aligners will vary depending on the complexity of your dentist's prescription.

The aligners will be individually numbered and will be dispensed to you by your dentist with specific instructions for use.

Unless otherwise instructed by your dentist, you should wear your aligners for approximately 22 hours per day, removing them only to eat, brush and floss.

As directed by your dentist, you will switch to the next aligner in the series every two to three weeks. Treatment duration varies depending on the complexity of your dentist's prescription. Unless instructed otherwise, you should follow up with your dentist at a minimum of every 6 to 8 weeks.

Some patients may require bonded aesthetic attachments and/or elastics on their teeth during treatment to facilitate specific dental movements. Patients may require additional refinement after the initial series of aligners.

## Benefits

- Invisalign aligners offer an aesthetic alternative to conventional braces.
- Aligners are nearly invisible so many people won't realize you are in treatment.
- Tooth movement can be visualized through the Movement Movies.
- Aligners allow for normal brushing and flossing tasks that are generally impaired by conventional braces.
- Aligners do not have the metal wires or brackets associated with conventional braces.
- The wearing of aligners may improve oral hygiene habits during treatments.
- Invisalign patients may notice improved periodontal (gum) health during treatment.

## Risks and Inconveniences

Like other orthodontic treatments, the use of Invisalign product(s) may involve some of the risks outlined below:

- (i) Failure to wear the appliances for the required number of hours per day, not using the products as directed by your dentist, missing appointments, and atypically shaped teeth can lengthen the treatment time and affect the ability to achieve the desired results;
- (ii) Dental tenderness may be experienced after switching to the next aligner in the series;
- (iii) Gums, cheeks and lips may be scratched or irritated;
- iv) Teeth may shift position after treatment. Faithful wearing of retainers at the end of treatment should reduce this tendency;
- (v) Tooth decay, periodontal disease, inflammation of the gums or permanent markings (e.g. decalcification) may occur if patients consume foods or beverages containing sugar, do not brush and floss their teeth properly before wearing the Invisalign products, or do not use proper oral hygiene and preventative maintenance;

(vi) The aligners may temporarily affect speech and may result in a lisp, although any speech impediment caused by the Invisalign products should disappear within one or two weeks;

(vii) Aligners may cause a temporary increase in salivation or mouth dryness and certain medications can heighten this effect;

(viii) Attachments may be bonded to one or more teeth during the course of treatment;

(ix) Teeth may require interproximal recontouring or slenderizing in order to create space to allow tooth movement to occur;

(x) General medical conditions and use of medications can affect orthodontic treatment;

(xi) Health of the bone and gums which support the teeth may be impaired or aggravated;

(xii) Oral surgery may be necessary to correct crowding or severe jaw imbalances that are present prior to wearing the Invisalign product. If oral surgery is required, risks associated with anesthesia and proper healing must be taken into account prior to treatment;

(xiii) A tooth that has been previously traumatized, or significantly restored may be aggravated. In rare instances the useful life of the tooth may be reduced, the tooth may require additional dental treatment such as endodontic and/or additional restorative work and the tooth may be lost;

(xiv) Existing dental restorations (e.g. crowns) may become dislodged and require re-cementation or in some instances, replacement;

(xv) Short clinical crowns can pose appliance retention issues and inhibit tooth movement;

(xvi) The length of the roots of the teeth may be shortened during orthodontic treatment and may become a threat to the useful life of teeth;

(xvii) Product breakage has a higher probability in cases with multiple missing teeth;

(xviii) Orthodontic appliances or parts thereof may be accidentally swallowed or aspirated;

(xix) In rare instances, problems may also occur in the jaw joint, causing joint pain, headaches or ear problems;

(xx) Allergic reactions may occur and

(xxi) Teeth that are not at least partially covered by the aligner may undergo supra-eruption

#### Informed Consent

I have been given adequate time to read and have read the preceding information describing orthodontic treatment with Invisalign aligners. I understand the benefits, risks and inconveniences associated with treatment. I have been sufficiently informed and have had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss concerns about orthodontic treatment with Invisalign products with my dentist from whom I intend to receive treatment. I understand that I should only use the Invisalign products after consultation and prescription from an Invisalign certified dentist, and I hereby consent to orthodontic treatment with Invisalign products that have been prescribed by my doctor.

Due to the fact that orthodontics is not an exact science, I acknowledge that my dentist and Southern Cross Dental Laboratories (SCDL) have not and cannot make any guarantees or assurances concerning the outcome of my treatment. I understand that SCDL is not a provider of medical, dental or health care services and does not and cannot practice medicine, dentistry or give medical advice. No assurances or guarantees of any kind have been made to me by my dentist or SCDL, its representatives, successors, assigns, and agents concerning any specific outcome of my treatment.

I authorize my doctor to release my medical records, including, but not be limited to, radiographs (x-rays), reports, charts, medical history, photographs, findings, plaster models or impressions of teeth, prescriptions, diagnosis, medical testing, test results, billing, and other treatment records in my dentist's possession ("Medical Records")

(i) to other licensed dentists or orthodontists and organizations employing licensed dentists and orthodontists and to Southern Cross Dental Laboratories (SCDL), its representatives, employees, successors, assigns, and agents for the purposes of investigating and reviewing my medical history as it pertains to orthodontic treatment with product(s) from SCDL and (ii) for educational and research purposes. I understand that use of my Medical Records may result in disclosure of my "individually identifiable health information" as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("hipaa").

I hereby consent to the disclosure(s) as set forth above. I will not, nor shall anyone on my behalf seek legal, equitable or monetary damages remedies for such disclosure. I acknowledge that use of my Medical Records is without compensation and that I will not nor shall anyone on my behalf have any right of approval, claim of compensation, or seek or obtain legal, equitable or monetary damages or remedies arising out of any use such that comply with the terms of this Consent.

A photostatic copy of this Consent shall be considered as effective and valid as an original. I have read, understand and agree to the terms set forth in this Consent as indicated by my signature below.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

