As a result of your dental examination and consultation, you have decided to have the following treatment:

**Root Canal Treatment**

This may be to treat:

Dental decay (caries) that has affected the pulp (nerve) of the tooth.

- Crack in the tooth.
- Gum disease that has affected the root of the tooth. Dental trauma.
- Repeated dental work to the tooth. Extreme wear to the tooth.
- Irreversible pulpitis (inflammation of the pulp)
- Abscess

Delaying your treatment may lead to:

- Severe pain
- Abscess
- Damage to the bone which supports the tooth. The tooth becoming un-restorable.
- Extraction of the tooth.
- The need for tooth replacement.

Your appointments are as follows:

- Pulp extirpation – removing the nerve of the tooth
- Root canal preparation and debridement – cleaning and shaping the root canals
- Root canal obturation – filling the root canals
- Filling – permanent filling of the access cavity. A post may be inserted at this appointment
- Crown preparation – The tooth will be prepared for the placement of a crown, impressions taken, temporary crown placed
- Crown cementation – the crown is cemented and adjustments are made if needed

The treatment:

Usually, root canal treatment involves 3 appointments, ideally one week apart. After the root canal treatment is complete, the access cavity must be filled and sealed. A crown is recommended after completion of the root canal treatment and filling. A post into the root canal may be required to unify the root of the tooth with the crown.

The cost of root canal treatments depends on which tooth is being treated, as different teeth have a different number of canals. Incisors may
have one or two canals. Canines have one canal most commonly premolars can have one or two canals. Molars have three or four canals.

X-rays are required at various stages of root canal treatment to verify root canal anatomy, lengths and to monitor healing.

After your treatment:

You may experience some tenderness of the tooth being treated. This should subside after a few days.

Further treatment may be required including:

- referral to an endodontist,
- an apicectomy (root end removal),
- gum treatment
- re-treatment of the root canal
- if pain or infection occurs months or years after the tooth cannot be saved.

Your dentist will provide more information on this and related costs if the situation arises.

Oral hygiene:

You must maintain good oral hygiene practices at home including:

- Brushing teeth twice a day for two minutes each time.
- Flossing once a day.
- Monitor sugar intake – decay causing bacteria thrive on sugar.
- Use a fluoride toothpaste, drink fluoridated tap water and use a fluoride rinse.

Visit your dentist every six months for a dental check-up and preventative dental care.

The main causes of root canal treatments failure are:

- Failure of the seal on the root canals as a result of not crowning the tooth, and recurrent decay.
- Crack formation in the tooth as a result of not crowning tooth.
- Recurrent infection.

Your dentist will take care to ensure that the treatment is completed and monitored to reduce the risk of a premature failure.

1. As we keep our teeth longer than in previous generations, most likely you will require further treatment of this tooth in the future. By
adhering to a preventative dental routine, early detection of changes may be possible and complex treatments may be avoided. Payment is required at the time of treatment.