

Treatment Plan

General Guidelines

A treatment plan is a statement of the services to be performed for the patient. It is based on the history and clinical examination and diagnosis, to arrive at a logical plan to eliminate or alleviate the patient's dental symptoms, problems and diseases, and to prevent future degenerative changes.

The treatment plan should follow a logical sequence, such as:

- Relief of pain and discomfort
- Elimination of infection, irritations, traumatic conditions
- Prophylaxis and instruction in preventive practices
- Treatment of extensive carious lesions and pulpal inflammation
- Periodontal treatment
- Elimination of remaining caries, necessary extractions
- Restoration and replacement of teeth
- Placement of the patient on a recall schedule to suit the assessed needs

The plan of treatment for infectious processes provides for drainage and other local as well as systemic measures such as drug therapy, fluid and nutritional support. Selection of antimicrobials is based on identification and sensitivity of the infecting organism as well as the efficacy of the agent and its potential adverse effects.

Final restoration of a tooth or teeth that requires endodontic and/or periodontal treatment should be postponed until a favorable prognosis for the retention of the tooth or teeth has been established.

The plan of treatment includes an optimal amount of treatment at any single appointment and is based on the requirements for a functional dentition and a healthy oral cavity.

Outpatient management is planned unless, in the judgment of the dentist, the severity of the disease, complexity of the treatment, or health of the patient warrants hospitalization.

The plan of treatment should include consultation and/or referral for treatment when the nature of the disease, complexity of treatment, or health of the patient is beyond the normal scope of any particular dentist.

No matter how thorough the history and clinical examination, how accurate the diagnosis, or how rational the treatment plan, there will always be situations wherein the patient refuses to accept part or all of the recommended treatment. In fact, there may be occasions where the patient requests a form of treatment that, in the best judgment of the attending dentist, would be neglectful or injurious to his dental health and dental function.

A patient cannot be forced to comply with a recommended course of treatment. Likewise, a dentist cannot be forced to perform services that are contrary to the patient's best interest. The dentist's responsibility is discharged upon informing the patient of the diagnosis, recommended plan of treatment, prognosis and complications. The dentist must be guided and judged by the first principle of health care: "to do no harm." In short, the right of the patient to elect treatment is balanced by the right of the dentist to refuse treatment, so long as both parties understand the rational consequences of their actions. The principle of informed consent requires further legal definition before it can be described explicitly. In general, however, informed consent includes the following:

- Reason for treatment
- Diagnosis
- Prognosis
- Alternate plans of treatment
- Nature of care and treatment
- Inherent risks
- Expectancy of success
- Possible results in treatment is not done

The following quality-evaluation criteria should be considered merely as AIDS for the discrimination between the four ratings for each characteristic. The determination of the four ratings for each characteristic. The determination of the rating of any given dental service is dependent upon the sound JUDGMENT of the peer review examiners.

TREATMENT PLAN

QUALITY EVALUATION RATING SYSTEM		
	Rating	Operational Explanation
S A T I S F A C T O R Y	R Range of Excellence ROMEO Code: R Call: Romeo	A satisfactory treatment plan has been developed and recorded.
	S Range of Acceptability SIERRA Code: S Call: Sierra	The treatment plan which has been developed and recorded is acceptable even though one or more aspects of the diagnosis were not thoroughly considered.
N O S A T I S F A C T O R Y	T Not Acceptable Validity Questionable TANGO Code: T Call: Tango	The treatment plan is not acceptable, or the sequence of treatment is inappropriate, but the deficiencies do not appear to jeopardize the dental or general health of the patient.
	V Not Acceptable Inadequate VICTOR Code: V Call: Victor	The treatment plan is not acceptable. Treatment of harmful or dangerous conditions has not been included or the sequence of treatment is inappropriate.

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TREATMENT PLAN

QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA AND ABBREVIATIONS			
Code	Documentation	Code	Sequence
	<p>The treatment plan and procedures are written systematically in the patient's record before treatment is started. Where only operative procedures such as restorations are planned, symbolic charting will suffice as a treatment plan.</p> <p>(Refer to General Guidelines.)</p>		<p>The treatment plan is written and follows a logical sequence.</p> <p>(Refer to General Guidelines.)</p>
STP	<p>The treatment plan is recorded sketchily, and/or the restorative treatment procedures are not planned.</p>	SSQ	<p>The treatment plan lacks systematic sequence; but either the sequence is not important or it is obvious from the charting.</p>
TTP	<p>There is no written plan of treatment of routine uncomplicated case.</p>	TSQ	<p>The sequence of treatment may delay treatment of existing conditions that are potentially harmful.</p>
VTP	<p>There is no written plan of treatment of complex cases.</p>	VPRI	<p>Priority has not been given to the treatment of serious conditions that are harmful or dangerous.</p>

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