Cone Beam 3D Cat Scan Consent Form:

Consent for Cone Beam 3D cat scan to evaluate the bone or the structures your dentist may have to work around.

1. A CBCT scan, also known as Cone Beam Computerized Tomography, is an x-ray technique that produces 3D images of your skull that allows visualization of internal bony structures in cross section rather than as overlapping images typically produced by conventional x-ray exams. CBCT scans are primarily used to visualize bony structures, such as teeth and your jaws, not soft tissue such as your tongue or gums.

2. Advantages of a CBCT Scan over conventional x-rays: A conventional x-ray of your mouth limits your dentist to a two-dimensional or 2D visualization. Diagnosis and treatment planning can require a more complete understanding of complex three-dimensional or 3D anatomy. CBCT examinations provide a wealth of 3D information which may be used when planning for dental implants, surgical extractions, maxillofacial surgery, and advanced dental restorative procedures. Benefits of CBCT scans include: A. Higher accuracy when planning implant placement surgery; B. Greater chance for diagnosing conditions such as vertical root fractures that can be missed on conventional x-ray films; C. Greater chance of providing images and information which may result in the patient avoiding unnecessary dental treatment; D. Better diagnosis of third molar (wisdom teeth) positioning in proximity to vital structures such as nerves and blood vessels prior to removal; E. The CBCT scan enhances your dentist's ability to see what needs to be done before treatment is started.

3. Radiation: CBCT scans, like conventional x-rays, expose you to radiation. The dosage per scan is equivalent to 2 regular dental panoramic x-rays. However, all radiation exposure is linked with a slightly higher risk of developing cancer. But the advantages of the CBCT scan outweigh this disadvantage.

4. Pregnancy: Women who are pregnant should not undergo a CBCT scan due to the potential danger to the fetus. Please tell the dentist if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.

5. Diagnosis of non-dental conditions: While parts of your anatomy beyond your mouth and jaw may be evident from the scan, your dentist may not be qualified to diagnose conditions that may be present in those areas. If any abnormalities, asymmetries, or common pathologic conditions are noted upon the CBCT scan, it may become necessary to send the scan to an Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologist for further diagnosis. However, by signing this form, you are acknowledging that your dentist may not be qualified to diagnose all conditions that may be present, and that his/her liability only extends to the limits of the dental purpose of the scan and its interpretation for that purpose.

We are not responsible or trained to do complete interpretation of the scan. However, we are always ready to provide a copy of the scan on a CD-Rom for the patient to pursue consultation with a trained dental radiologist that is capable of evaluating these scans for cancer and other types of non-dental pathology.

When the general dentist views a Cone Beam Cat Scan we only look at dental related problems. There may be non-dental related problems (such as cancer or pathology) that we are not trained to identify. The scan is your property and we will give you a CD-Rom with the scan on request, so that you can pursue independent consultation with dental radiologists if you want further interpretation for your scan.

Furthermore, if you ask us to submit your scan to a radiologist for review then we will charge an additional $920 for radiology interpretation by a certified radiologist at Penn State University (or any other properly certified radiologist). We will do this as a courtesy for you and we are not responsible for any incorrect diagnoses or missed diagnoses that may occur.

Legal Fees:
The dental company is entitled to claim legal fees and lost wages incurred for any situation where legal action against the dental company is initiated and ultimately unsuccessful.