

## Rules about Implant Maintenance Procedures:

- **Different Types of implant maintenance procedures that are commonly required.**
  - Implant crown/bridge feels loose thus we hope to remove it, clean it and replace it with proper torque values. Typically, this will require a brand-new abutment screw for each abutment involved at a cost of \$100 per abutment screw.
  - Sometimes the crown or abutment is broken and then the patient will be required to pay for a new abutment crown at a cost of \$956 per abutment crown. Some cases will require a custom abutment in addition to abutment crown and the custom abutment will result in additional fee of \$475 per custom abutment required.
  - Some cases will involve more severe complications such as a broken screw, stripped screw, stripped threads or broken implant fixture. In these very complicated situations, the patient will typically attempt to have the broken screw removed using special reverse drilling burs and ultrasonics. This can be done in our office with our general dentists. However, we always recommend the patient to get second opinion from specialists such as oral surgeons or prosthodontists because specialists are the experts for treating these complications.
  - If all efforts fail to remove the damaged component, then sometimes the patient is forced to have their implant either buried or removed. If an implant is to be removed then the specialist (or one of our general dentists) will use burs such as trephine burs to bore out the implant in a manner that is destructive to the bone in that site. This may result in extensive additional bone grafting and/or impossible to receive implant in that site in the future. The patient will be responsible to pay all fees for failed implant removal both in our office and at a specialist office. We do not provide free implant removal or any other discounts if an abutment screw is broken in our office. This is a risk the patient accepts if and when they ask us to attempt retrieval of a broken/damaged abutment screw. This is a risk the patient accepts if they ask our dentists to remove a loose implant crown to attempt to replace it. Thus, it is important to get 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> opinions from specialists prior to asking a general dentist to touch an implant crown or implant screw for any reason at all. Even simply asking a dentist to fix a loose implant crown can result in failed implant with trephine removal procedure if the screw breaks. Sometimes the screw is bent and the dentist couldn't know. Thus, the screw breaks on insertion or removal and then the patient ultimately has to remove the entire implant fixture with resultant damage to the jaw bone.
- **Second Opinion Recommendation:**
- We always recommend the patient receives second opinion from specialists such as Oral Surgeons and/or prosthodontists before proceeding with the general dentists in our office.
  - NovaOMS Oral Surgery Group in Reston VA for oral surgery experts.
  - Dr. Gerard Marling Prosthodontist in Washington DC for prosthodontics expert.
  - Dr. Charles Fields and his team at Precision Periodontics in Reston VA.
- **Cost of Implant Maintenance in our office:**
- We will give discounts when possible (on case-by-case basis) but the generic fee for implant maintenance in our office is \$943 per incident.

- **Warning about implant related complications and associated costs of these:**
- We provide zero guarantees for longevity or success, because biology is not guarantee-able.
- Patient is guaranteed to experience some implant related complications such as loose screws, broken screws, stripped screws, stripped threads, bone loss, peri-implantitis, chipped restorations due to bruxism and rarely even implant failure due to infection or broken abutment screw.
- Patient must be prepared to pay for all related implant maintenance procedures and all implant related failures that could happen. Our office will not pay for any of the repairs or maintenance your implants require in the future. Furthermore, we always recommend hard night guard for all patients to control bruxism. We also have a important video on our website for controlling day-time bruxism.
- Here are some examples of problems the patient must expect and related fees for treating these potential complications.
- These restorations can chip or break and the screws can become loose, break or become stripped overtime. Any of these situations can result in an extremely problematic situation where the entire implant must be removed with a trephine bur that is destructive to the jaw bone for that site. Thus, if you have a broken screw, or a stripped thread then you may have to pay an oral surgeon for the service of removal of a failed implant.
- If your crown is ever loose you should not re-insert it into your mouth and you should come to dentist for implant maintenance procedure immediately to avoid broken screws and bent screws.
- Our office charges for all implant maintenance procedures including loose screws and broken screw removal attempts. We cannot provide any warranties or guarantees about longevity of these components because it depends on how well they are maintained by the patient.
- Implant maintenance procedure fee is \$943 per incident in our office.
  - Implant maintenance procedure normally involves unscrewing loose crown and replacing the crown using a brand-new abutment retention screw.
- **Additional Fees for Temporary Removable Dentures that may be requested:**
- We can provide temporary removable dentures for the patient to wear throughout this process at the additional cost of \$956 per removable denture requested. This fee is separate and distinct from the fee for each implant maintenance procedure itself.