

# ROOT CANAL THERAPY

Your dentist has recommended that you receive a root canal (also called endodontic treatment or root canal therapy) in order to save your tooth. The only alternative to this procedure is to extract the tooth. This is a complicated procedure which requires a significant amount of skill and time to perform well. This procedure usually costs hundreds to thousands of dollars in a private practice and insurance generally does not cover this procedure. As a Public Health Center Clinic, Philadelphia FIGHT Family dentistry is exceptional in offering this procedure. In general, Public Health Centers do not offer this service.

Your dentist recommends that ideally, you should go to a see a specialist (endodontist) to have this procedure performed. However, your dentist is also trained to perform this procedure, and in this instance has offered to perform the procedure here, at Philadelphia FIGHT Family Dentistry.

There are certain expectations that are important to understand so that you are able to make the choice of whether to have the root canal completed by your dentist here or to go to a specialist. If you would like to have the root canal procedure completed here, please understand that:

- It is a unique opportunity to have the procedure performed by a skilled dentist in a community health clinic.
- Your dentist recommends and encourages you to see a specialist for the treatment if you are able.
- The procedure will take a significant amount of time (several hours). It is recommended that you set aside all morning or all afternoon for the appointment.
- At times during the procedure, your dentist may need to get up and see other patients.
- At times, you may need to come back for a second appointment to finish the root canal.
- There can be no guarantee that the treatment will be successful (regardless of whether it is performed here by a general dentist or by a specialist in a private practice).
- If you choose to go to a specialist for this procedure, you will be financially responsible for the associated costs.
- Occasionally, when the procedure is already underway, it may become evident that:
  - a. The tooth is non-restorable and must be extracted OR
  - b. Completing it here is beyond the scope of our practice.

Please be sure to review any concerns with the dentist prior to scheduling your root canal appointment. Philadelphia FIGHT Family Dentistry has a long waitlist of people who would like to receive root canal treatment with us and appointment slots fill up quickly.