B. Endodontic Treatment Planning, Records and Follow-up Visits

Endodontic treatment is based on an analysis of all diagnostic information. Treatment planning should include a determination of the strategic importance of the tooth or teeth considered for treatment, the prognosis and the urgency of treatment. It is incumbent upon providers of endodontic care to address endodontically related emergencies in a timely manner. Other factors, such as excessively curved canals, periodontal disease, occlusion, tooth fractures, calcified or occluded canals, restorability and teeth with complex root canal morphology, should be considered. (See the AAE Endodontic Case Difficulty Assessment Form and Guidelines in the Appendix.)

Treatment records should include the chief complaint(s) in the patient’s own words; a current medical and dental history; the results of diagnostic tests and clinical examination; clinical impressions based on subjective and objective evaluations; the pulpal and periradicular diagnoses and treatment recommendations; a description of treatment rendered, including pulpal status upon entry; the prognosis as reported to the patient; recommendations for tooth restoration; and the preoperative, appropriate working, postoperative and follow-up radiographs or digital radiographic images. Informed consent is required. It may be helpful to record patient commentaries before, during and after treatment. Prescriptions must be recorded, and consultations should be made part of the patient record.

Endodontic care includes evaluation of the patient’s postoperative response to the clinical procedures. Providers of endodontic services should encourage patients to return at appropriate follow-up intervals for evaluation.
**SELECTED REFERENCES:**
**Endodontic Treatment Planning, Records and Follow-up Visits**


Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.


