



## DENTAL TIPS

From Dr. Joel Scheir, DDS, PC

### Exactly What is a Porcelain Veneer?

An extremely thin custom-made shell that is lifelike in appearance is placed on the front of the tooth, giving it a new "face". In recent years, the materials used to make these veneers have improved tremendously. Many problems patients have with the appearance of their smiles can be corrected using veneers.

What can veneers improve?

**Color:** Tooth color can change throughout one's life, generally yellowing with age and time. Whitening can help and I generally advise this as a first step. Some teeth with excessive discoloration never achieve an acceptable color with simple tooth whitening. A veneer, however, has the ability to masque color and therefore provides greater latitude when making a color shift to whiter and brighter.

**Shape:** Wear on teeth can make them appear shorter, flatter or rough along the edges. Veneers can give you a more youthful smile, not only by making the teeth whiter and brighter, but also by improving their size and shape.

**Alignment and Spacing:** If you want to close a gap between your teeth, or if some of your teeth are out of alignment, there are several options for you. You could opt for orthodontic treatment. Many times we recommend this to our patients. Some cases can be corrected using veneers alone. Occasionally a combination of both orthodontic movement and veneers may be needed to achieve the best possible result.

In summation, a smile makes you feel good. It also communicates positive emotions to others. Some people avoid smiling to "hide" their teeth. Many of the problems people have with their teeth can be addressed beautifully with porcelain veneers. Ask your dentist if they are the right choice for you!