

# Documenting Implant Components for Patients' Future Needs



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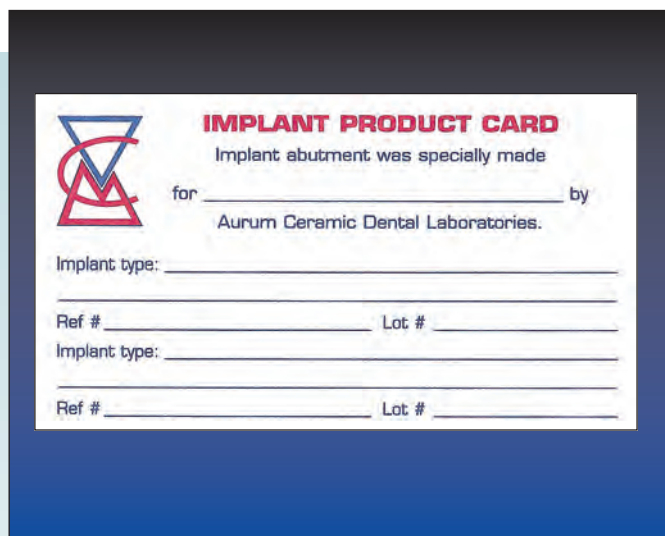


Figure 1: Blank Implant Product Card.

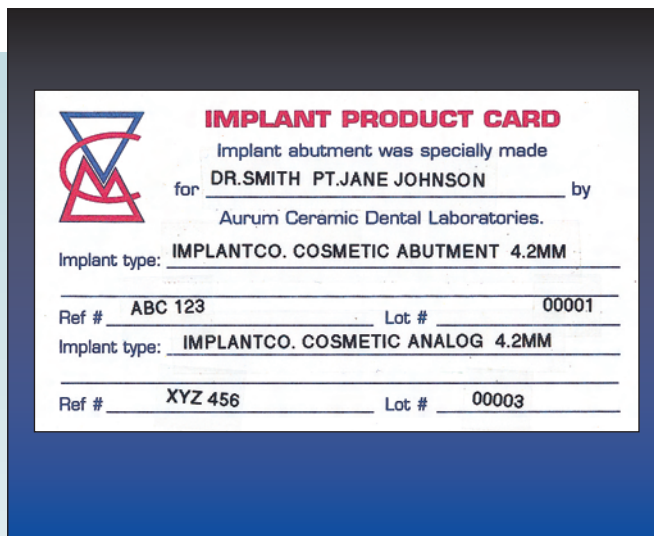


Figure 2: Completed card.

Many companies involved in implantology have come and gone and existing implant company's components have evolved, leaving patients with obsolete implant parts in their mouths. Some of you have had the frustrating experience of a patient walking in off of the street presenting with a fractured restoration, or a broken or loosened screw. Now, a long arduous investigative process begins. Perhaps the original dentist/surgeon has retired or the patient has moved away from the original dentist, etc. Chasing down components for obsolete systems is difficult at best, and sometimes is downright impossible. This results in a compromised 'fix'. Where does this leave the patient who thought that their implant would last a lifetime?

In such cases where little or no information is available, we, as a lab, can

help to solve the puzzle. Helpful information such as an impression of the abutment with access to screw head, if possible, intra-oral photographs, a radiograph or x-ray of implant, preferably a p.a. with a 1:1 ratio to measure diameter and length of implants. Old product catalogs, knowledge of older systems, and the use of technical representatives of the various implant companies are also useful.

However, if we want to avoid this situation entirely, a standard system is required to document these components to help future dentists, labs and ultimately patients. This isn't a new idea by any means; different dental labs and dentists across the world have adopted various methods of documenting components.

The following is one method that we have adopted at Aurum Ceramic/Classic to address this problem. We have developed an "Implant Product Card" (See Figure 1) that is used to

document critical information as patient name, dentist, implant type, reference number and lot number. The completed Implant Product Card can then be sent home along with the restorative model for the patient to keep in a safe place (See Figure 2).

It is critical to instruct the patient on the importance of keeping this safe. A photocopy of the Card will be placed in the patient's file. When the dentist receives this card with the case, the dental office can add any further information that they may feel is relevant such as the surgeon's name.

For a patient that will need restorative work 10 or 12 years down the road, this Product Card will be of immense value.