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## **Crown Procedure Release Form**

Your comfort and understanding of the planned treatment is important to us. Please review the information provided. Acknowledge your understanding and consent with your signature.

### **What is a crown?**

A crown, also known as a cap is a type of dental restoration which completely encircles and encases a tooth or dental implant. Crowns can be made from different materials and are fabricated in dental laboratories.

**Crowns are used to rebuild broken or decayed teeth, strengthen teeth or to improve the cosmetic appearance of a tooth.**

The strengthening capability of a crown is due to the fact that they encase the tooth, acting as a splint that binds what is left of the tooth together. Repairing a large cavity or fracture with filling material often requires the removal of so much tooth structure that the overall strength of the tooth is reduced greatly. The tooth is no longer intact and its structural integrity has been compromised, resulting in the need for a crown.

### **What is the procedure?**

It typically involves **two** appointments (about 3 weeks apart).

At the **first appointment** the dentist will numb your tooth. Then your tooth will be shaped. The tooth is reduced and tapered in a specific fashion to allow the crown to slip over and onto the tooth.

There can be times when so much of a tooth has broken off or decayed that the dentist will feel it necessary to **buildup** the tooth with filling material to make the tooth taller. The greater the amount of structure that extends up into the interior of the crown the more stability the crown will have.

Once the tooth has been shaped, impressions will be taken. This impression will be sent to the laboratory along with the shade that was selected to match your dentition. They will fabricate the crown to fit on a precise cast of your tooth. A temporary crown will be made and placed with temporary cement. In the event it should come off, please call the office and we will do our best to get you in.

The **second appointment** will be to cement your permanent crown. First your dentist may numb the tooth. The temporary crown is then removed. The crown is then placed to evaluate the fit. Dental floss, probing and biting are techniques used in assuring a good fit. If it involves a front tooth you may be asked to evaluate its appearance as well. If the fit, shape or shade is not right it may be sent back to the laboratory for correction. If this is the case, the temporary will be replaced or remade. Once it is agreed that all seems right, the crown can be cemented. Cement is placed inside the crown and it is seated on your tooth. After a few minutes, any excess cement is removed and the placement is complete.

In some cases a patient may experience sensitivity that should lessen after a few days. If discomfort remains or worsens and tooth becomes achy, sensitive to heat or to pressure, you need to call and let us know. It may require a simple occlusal adjustment or if the tooth has not had a root canal, the nerve could be dying and this would require endodontic treatment. This will be determined upon your appointment.

Although no dental restoration lasts forever, the average lifespan of a crown is around 10 years. Most insurance companies will allow replacement in five years. **There is no guarantee on their longevity.** The most important factor affecting the lifespan of any restorative is the continuing oral hygiene performed by the patient. This is crucial to achieve the maximum benefits and life of the crown. Regular dental cleanings and x-rays will help detect any problems that might occur.

There are various types of crowns and your doctor will help you to determine which will be the best choice for you. These Include:

- All porcelain crowns: very esthetic and primarily used on anterior (front) teeth. Porcelain can be fragile think of your porcelain china). Although strong enough to withstand normal functions they can easily chip or fracture if the tooth is hit or extreme pressure is applied.
- Porcelain fused to metal crowns: Not as esthetic, but have a metal substructure which provides strength. The gum line may, in some crowns, appear gray due to the metal bleeding through the thinner porcelain as it tapers at the gum line. These crowns are generally recommended for the posterior (back) teeth.
- Gold crowns: Very strong, but not as esthetic at all. With proper hygiene and maintenance it will last the longest.

Reasons to replace an existing crown may include: excessive wear, decay is present at the margins of the crown; the crown has fractured or has become esthetically objectionable.

**If you have further questions, please ask your doctor before signing.**

**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witnessed by:** \_\_\_\_\_