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Your dentist has recommended you have a crown made for one or more of your teeth. Your dentist will have explained the reason for making you the crown and will also have indicated that you may have the crown made either on the NHS or under private contract.

To enable you to make the right decision according to your needs and circumstances this information sheet will provide you with the choices available and the costs involved. Remember if there is anything you would like to discuss please have a chat with our dentist or a member of staff who can help you.

What are crowns?

Crowns (sometimes referred to as caps) are artificial coverings which are used to improve the appearance of teeth or to restore badly broken-down teeth.

How long does crown and bridge treatment take?

Crowns usually take two visits. The first visit is to prepare the tooth, by smoothing it down and shaping it. An impression is taken and sent to the laboratory. A temporary crown is usually constructed. A few weeks later the laboratory sends your crown back to us to be fitted. At the second appointment your dentist will fit the crown on with dental cement.

Whilst a crown is a strong restoration it is important to be aware that not all crowns can be provided without additional problems. The underlying tooth is normally already broken down and so there is a chance that it can still break, or the tooth may require root canal treatment if the nerve of the tooth doesn't settle down after treatment.

NHS Crowns

Metal crown Band 3 on the NHS

This is a silver-coloured crown and is the only cost effective and best for functional purposes type available for back teeth on the NHS. It is made in an NHS laboratory using low-cost non-precious metal alloys. This crown contains nickel and zinc metals.

Porcelain bonded to metal crown band 3 on the NHS

This type of crown has porcelain bonded to a metal base and is therefore white in colour. These are only available on front teeth on the NHS but are the most basic type of white crown available using a very limited range of porcelain shades and the lowest costing non-precious metal alloys. These are also sent to an NHS lab.

Full gold crown (private) Upon quotation

This is usually the crown of choice for the majority of circumstances from an academic point of view. This is due to it being the one that has lasted the test of time. It requires the least amount of tooth preparation and removal; it is the most tooth friendly and is strongest. A high content gold alloy is used which is hard wearing and long is lasting. We use the latest bonding techniques and cement to fit this crown to your tooth for a high strength bond between your tooth and the gold.

Porcelain bonded to precious metal crown (private) upon quotation.

This is a crown that utilises technology to bond to a high fusing precious metal substructure. This Porcelain crown is constructed by an experienced and skilled team of technicians to ensure a high-quality crown is produced that we hope will meet aesthetic expectations. As it requires enough room for both the metal and porcelain this can result in more tooth removal than would be necessary for the other types of crowns. We try to match the colour of this crown with your existing tooth colour.

All ceramic e-max crown Private

Pressable ceramics are used to produce a highly aesthetic and life-like appearance for your crown. There is no metal or alloys in this crown and its lifelike nature and strength make it ideally suited for any tooth in the mouth including back teeth. We can also keep the margins of this above the gum line and blend it into the tooth. This reduces the need to remove unnecessary amounts of tooth and allowing for these areas to be more cleansable for you. It is bonded to your tooth very much like a white filling utilising the latest evidence based adhesive technology. It is backed by a 1-year guarantee against fracture by the laboratory. The colour of this crown is matched as closely as we possibly can with your existing tooth colour.

Zirconia all porcelain crown Private

Zirconium is becoming one of the most chosen materials for dental crowns for root filled and teeth where there would be higher stresses on the tooth. Its many advantages include it is extraordinarily tough, it can withstand wear and tear and is translucent enough to be similar in colour to natural teeth. They are as strong as gold crowns. One of the disadvantages of the crown is that because it is virtually indestructible they are very difficult to cut through or remove if further treatment is required. Therefore, your dentist would only select this if they felt it clinically necessary in your particular circumstance.