

### **Does my child need any time off school?**

No, your child will be able to go back to school after the treatment.

### **Do I need to give consent?**

Yes, after we have discussed the procedure, we will ask you to give your verbal consent. Then the treatment can go ahead.

### **Are there any alternatives?**

White fillings do not protect the tooth so well and have been found not to last as long; therefore they may not be suitable for very decayed and weak teeth.

### **Who can I contact for further information about the procedure?**

Please contact your dentist or dental care professional.

Department of Paediatric Dentistry,  
The Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel,  
London, E1 1BB

Tel 020 7767 3203

[www.bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens-hospital/childrens-services/dentistry-oral-and-maxillofacial/](http://www.bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens-hospital/childrens-services/dentistry-oral-and-maxillofacial/)

### **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

If you need general advice or support with any of our services, including help with any concerns you may have, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) at The Royal London Hospital:

Tel: 020 359 42040 or 020 359 42050

Fax: 020 359 43235

Email: [PALS@bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk](mailto:PALS@bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk)

### **Large print and translations**

For this leaflet in large print, please ring 020 3594 2040 or 020 3594 2050. For help in interpreting this leaflet in other languages, please ring 020 7377 7280.

### **Your health records**

To enable us to improve the quality of the care that we provide, your health records are kept by the Trust and may be used for teaching, training, audit and research. Further information on how the Trust uses your information can be found on our website at [www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/home/about-us/freedom-of-information/health-records-and-data-protection-confidentiality/](http://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/home/about-us/freedom-of-information/health-records-and-data-protection-confidentiality/)

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*All our patient information leaflets are reviewed every three years.*

## Patient information

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# Your child's dental care – stainless steel crowns

## **Welcome**

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to the Department of Paediatric Dentistry at The Royal London Hospital. Your dentist has recommended a stainless steel crown for your child's tooth. This leaflet will tell you more about what is involved.

## **What is a stainless steel crown?**

Stainless steel crowns can help to protect primary (baby) teeth. They fit over molars (back teeth) that are decayed or have not formed properly. They are pre-made and come in a range of sizes. We will choose one that will fit over your child's tooth. It will clip over the entire crown of the tooth (the part that sits above the gum). The crown is then cemented in place.

## **How long does it take?**

The crown can usually be fitted in one appointment (normally 30 minutes).

## **Why does my child need a stainless steel crown?**

A stainless steel crown is an alternative to extracting a decayed and weak tooth. A crown will help to protect the tooth and

keep a space in the mouth for the adult tooth to come through.

## **Tell me more about the procedure...**

The tooth is made numb with local anaesthetic and the decay is removed. The tooth is trimmed with a drill so that the crown is an exact fit. The crown is then clipped and cemented into place.

In some cases, for example, in very anxious children, a variation on the treatment, called the Hall technique, can be used. This involves no local anaesthetic or drilling of the tooth.

## **How long do they last?**

The crown should stay in place until the baby tooth falls out naturally (when the permanent tooth underneath is ready to come through).

Occasionally, the tooth with the crown on may need to be extracted (taken out) before then.

## **Are there any side effects?**

The crown will feel tight on the tooth for the first couple of days. If you think your child needs it, provide painkillers. Speech

and eating may be difficult at first. Also, you may notice that the crown appears 'high' when it has first been put in. This usually settles within a couple of weeks.

## **How do I help my child look after the crown?**

The crowns will behave like a normal tooth and you can treat it like one. Brush it twice a day along with the other teeth.

## **What do they look like?**

They are bright and metallic (see below). Our research shows that children are usually pleased to have a shiny tooth.

