What is a filling?

- If you have a hole in a tooth (tooth decay) the dentist will remove the decay from the tooth and put in a filling to stop you from having pain.
During your appointment…

You will be asked to take a seat in the dental chair.

The chair will lie back.

The light will go on.

You will be asked to open your mouth wide and the dentist will use a mirror.
The tooth will need to be numbed. You will need an injection/needle in your mouth.

The dentist will use a drill to clean the hole in your tooth.

The drills are noisy.

The nurse will use suction to remove the water in your mouth.

The dentist will put the filling in your tooth. The filling will be white or silver.
The dentist might shine a blue light on the filling.

The tooth is now filled.

Your tooth may feel sensitive for a short while afterwards.
Sharing your information
We have teamed up with Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospitals in a partnership known as King’s Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy’s or St Thomas’. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

Care provided by students
We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS
The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleden Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

PALS at King’s College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS
Tel: 020 3299 3601
Email: kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Communications and Interpreting telephone line on 020 3299 4826 or email kch-tr.accessibility@nhs.net