

# Preformed metal crowns (PMC)

## Information for patients, parents and carers

This leaflet explains more about preformed metal crowns. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of staff looking after your child.

### **Confirming your child's identity**

Before your child has a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you to confirm their name and date of birth and check their ID band. If your child does not have an ID band, we will also ask you to confirm their address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check.

## What is a preformed metal crown?

Preformed metal crowns are metal crowns made from stainless steel, nickel and chrome. They are used to treat back teeth (molars) that have decayed, broken down or not formed properly. The crowns are made in a range of different sizes and cover the entire surface of the tooth. The dentist will choose the right crown for your child's tooth and will cement it in place with a special adhesive.

## Why do we use preformed metal crowns?

Preformed metal crowns are more likely to last longer than other filling materials put in large cavities. They protect the entire tooth from further decay. They will fall out with the baby teeth when the tooth becomes wobbly. This helps to maintain the natural spacing of the teeth and will guide the adult teeth into place.

These crowns are not suitable if the decay or breakdown is too deep. In this case, these teeth will often need to be removed (extracted).

## What do they look like?

They are shiny and metallic and are placed on the back molar teeth. They fit over the entire tooth surface (the part that sits above the gum).



### Consent

We must by law obtain your written consent to any operation and some other procedures beforehand. Staff will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to ask to speak with a senior member of staff again.

## How are they placed on the tooth?

There are different ways to place preformed metal crowns. The way the crown is placed depends on your child's ability to cope with treatment.

The tooth may be cleaned and/or shaped before the crown is placed. It may involve numbing of the tooth with a local anaesthetic.

Sometimes, an elastic separator is used to create a space for the crown. In this case, the crown is usually placed at the next appointment once the space has been created.

When the crown is in place, it may feel 'tight' and your child's bite may feel 'too high' or different. Your child will adapt quickly to their new crown. Your dentist will give you advice, for example, if painkillers are required.



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

The crown should stay in place until the baby tooth falls out naturally. So, when the baby tooth falls out, the crown falls out with it. Occasionally they need to be replaced and sometimes the top part of the crown can wear away.

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

Fillings can also be used to treat decayed back teeth. However, fillings in large cavities often do not protect the tooth as well or last as long as preformed metal crowns.

### **How do I look after the crowns?**

Preformed metal crowns need to be looked after just like normal teeth. This means they need to be brushed twice a day. Don't forget to clean the area in between where the two teeth meet.

### **What do I do now?**

A treatment plan will be formulated with your dentist at today's appointment. We encourage you to ask any more questions you may have.

On completion of treatment, your child will be discharged back to your local dentist. It is very important that they continue to provide regular check-ups.

**The contents of this leaflet have been adapted for use with permission from the Department of Paediatric Dentistry in St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.**

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the information in this leaflet, please contact the Department of Paediatric Dentistry team.

<b>Central Referral Office</b>	020 3299 4988
<b>Clinic Appointments</b>	020 3299 3055
<b>Secretary</b>	020 3299 3375
	020 3299 4983

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.kch.nhs.uk/patientsvisitors/patients/leaflets](http://www.kch.nhs.uk/patientsvisitors/patients/leaflets)

## 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 dentist 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 Hambleton 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](mailto: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](mailto:kch-tr.accessibility@nhs.net)**