

Treatment, and Fees, for a Crown or Bridge

Although we make a great effort to explain specific treatment and related fees, we find that for cast metal or porcelain restorations (crowns, bridges, inlays, onlays of metal and/or porcelain, also known as “caps”) there sometimes remains some confusion. Bridges are multiple units of crowns and pontic/s (false teeth “bridging” the space between). (See more information in Prosthesis/Protheses information). Please carefully read the following so you understand what the reason for a crown or bridge is and what is included in the fees for each procedure and where other fees might apply.

Porcelain/Ceramic and Cast Metal Restorations: Crowns and Bridges

Our first choice for a restoration is an all ceramic/porcelain type of restoration. Other options may be necessary, such as porcelain-fused-to-metal, or even all metal, but everything possible will be discussed, and questions answered, before treatment.

As mentioned above, a crown, sometimes called a “cap” is a full coverage restoration of the tooth, replacing what was or is supposed to be there if it were a natural tooth as originally intended. Full coverage means that

The fee for the restoration includes some or all of the below:

- The preliminary impressions and casts (models)
- Mounting the casts on an articulator, which simulates jaw movements
- Local anesthesia
- Preparation of the tooth (teeth)
- Shade selection, with photographs where indicated
- A provisional (temporary) restoration
- Bite registrations
- Working casts (models)
- Final impression(s) of the prepared tooth and its opposing teeth
- Trial fittings
- Trial cementation
- Adjustments
- Final cementation
- Follow-up and adjustments

The fee does **not** cover:

- Post and core foundations (buildup) needed on a tooth previously treated by root canal
- Foundations (buildups) to replace tooth structure where significant portions of the natural tooth are missing, or bases needed inside to protect the tooth.
- Bases are small protective coverings inside the preparation of the tooth to protect the pulp. In most cases these will be *indirect*, where this is placed as a protective

layer, which may also help stimulate the tooth to lay down additional dentin as a protective layer. If *direct*, then the tooth may be compromised and while it may provide stimulation to repair itself, it may be in the early stages of infection.

- Root Canal Therapy - Many times teeth may need a root canal therapy treatment before a restoration can be made. You will be informed of any of these things should they occur. Root canal therapy is performed by a specialist, an Endodontist, and is not part of the standard fee, it is separate if indicated.
- Periodontal (gum) surgery to expose adequate clinical tooth for crown retention
- Electrosurgery procedures to remove gum tissue where the decay of the tooth, fracture of the tooth, or previous tooth preparation has moved the sound tooth structure underneath the gum to the extent that the tooth cannot be properly prepared, visualized, or an impression made.

Unfortunately, the need for managing tissue using electrosurgery, or possibly laser treatment, will often not be known until the tooth preparation has been completed. Usually, we can complete this procedure in our office, but for more extensive cases where the crown would be compromised without additional care, you will be referred to a specialist for the “gum” (periodontal) surgery. If there is a potential that you will need a post, core, crown buildup, or soft tissue removal, we will inform you of the procedure and the associated cost before the preparation is begun (when possible). In most all cases these possibilities will be discussed before initiating any work. These procedures have separate dental insurance codes and are considered separate procedures and are not included in the fee for the crown or bridge.

If you have any questions about treatment and fees for a crown and bridge, please feel free to ask us.