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## ***Temporary Crown / Bridge*** - Post-op Instructions

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Bridges and crowns are fixed prosthetic devices that are cemented onto existing teeth or implants. Crowns are placed to cover or "cap" a damaged tooth or cover an implant. Bridges are commonly used to replace a missing tooth or teeth.

### ***How long will I be numb?***

You will likely experience numbness in your cheeks, lip or tongue up to 2 to 3 hours after the procedure, but timeframes may vary from person to person due to an individual person's metabolic rate. While your mouth is numb it is easy to accidentally bite your lip, tongue, or cheek. Be careful and try not to eat anything until the numbness has subsided.

### ***What will I need to remember following my appointment?***

You will be wearing your temporary crown for about 2 weeks until your permanent crown is fabricated by our lab. Avoid chewing gum or eating foods on that side that are hard, sticky, or crunchy until your next visit. This will help the likelihood of your temporary to stay on.

*The temporary is NOT how the permanent restoration will look or feel. Its purpose is to save the space until your permanent crown or bridge is placed. It is important that the temporary stays on to protect the tooth and to help your teeth from shifting. Please be diligent in keeping your return appointment as this temporary is NOT meant to last forever.*

Because the temporary is not meant to last forever, it may become loose, break, or come off completely during the duration of the 2-week period. If this happens, call our office, and we can re-cement or repair it for you.

### ***Will I feel pain/discomfort?***

It is common for the tooth and gum tissue to be sore or tender for a few days. If uncomfortable, you can:

- Apply an ice pack to reduce swelling.
- Take OTC pain medication as permitted by your health care provider.
- Contact our office if pain persists and we would be happy to see you.

If your temporary is causing you constant discomfort and it is accompanied by pressure sensitivity, it is possible your bite could be off. This is a simple fix. Call our office to schedule a quick visit so we can adjust your temporary.

**Your next appointment:** A follow up appointment is necessary to place the final and permanent restoration. Your new crown has been customized uniquely to you and will fit and feel much better than your temporary. This visit should have been scheduled at the initial crown visit. It is vital to keep this appointment as the temporary crown will not stay intact.

Thank you for entrusting us with your care.