



## All About Dental Crowns

### What is a dental crown?

A crown is a tooth-shaped dental restoration that covers and supports a damaged tooth by returning it to its original shape and size. Also called caps, crowns can be made from materials such as gold and other alloys, resin, porcelain, ceramic or porcelain fused to metal.

### When are crowns needed?

Dental crowns are typically needed when a tooth's strength and function have been affected by extensive tooth decay, root canal treatment, fracture or trauma. They can also be used to anchor a bridge or cover a dental implant. Your dentist will decide which type of crown and material is best for you.

### How does the procedure work?

First the tooth being treated will be numbed. Then your dentist will prepare and shape the tooth to remove the damaged areas so the crown can provide the best form and support. The amount of tooth preparation needed depends on how severely the tooth is damaged. Usually, you'll get a temporary crown until the final crown can be fitted and cemented in place. Some dental offices have special equipment that can provide same-day crowns.

### Are crowns covered by my dental plan?

Dental insurance usually covers part of the cost for crowns.\* Since crowns are typically recommended when simpler treatments can't be used, crown claims are reviewed by independent dental advisors. They evaluate dental X-rays, photographs and other information from your dentist to make sure the crown treatment meets your policy's coverage criteria.



*Asking for a predetermination before your procedure lets you know how much it may cost based on your dental coverage.*

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### How much will I owe for my crown?

When it comes to paying for dental treatment, no one likes surprises. Asking for a predetermination *before* your procedure lets you know how much it may cost based on your dental coverage. A predetermination is a free estimate that shows:

- If the treatment is a covered service under your plan
- The amount for which you will be responsible

A predetermination is not a guarantee of payment—it is an estimate of what you can expect to owe.

### Is a crown my only option?

Crowns may be necessary to restore tooth function, but there may also be other acceptable options. Ask your dentist questions to determine the best course of action:

- Is the treatment really necessary?
- Are there alternatives to this treatment?
- How long will it last?
- Can I think about it or get a second opinion?
- Can we request a predetermination?

Collaborating with your dentist can help you make the right oral health decisions. Knowing what your plan covers is just one factor to consider in your dental health. You and your dentist should always work together and choose the treatment that's best for your individual needs.



\*United Concordia policies have exclusions, limitations, reduction of benefits, and terms under which the policy may be continued or discontinued. For costs and complete details of your coverage, contact your insurance agent or the company.

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