



## Greater Prince William Community Health Center

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4379 Ridgewood Center Dr, Suite 102, Woodbridge, VA 22192  
Phone: 703.680.7950 Fax: 703.680.7953

### **Root Canal & Crown Services Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What Is Root Canal Treatment?**

Root canal treatment is needed when the pulp (soft tissue inside the tooth) becomes inflamed or infected as a result of: injury; trauma; decay; repeated dental procedures; or a cracked or chipped tooth.

#### **Why Choose A Root Canal For Your Teeth?**

Root canals are a better and common alternative to tooth extraction. Root canals do not cause pain—they relieve pain. Root canals can usually be completed in one or two to three visits depending on the tooth. Root canals do not cause illness.

#### **When Is A Root Canal Probable?**

The root canal is probable when the tooth is sensitive to heat or cold, the tooth feels tender to touch or when chewing; or when the patient experiences swelling of the mouth or face.

#### **How Are Root Canals Performed?**

The Dentist removes the inflamed or infected pulp, cleans and shapes the inside of the canals (channels inside the tooth), and fills and seals the canal space. After a root canal is completed the patient receives treatment to have a crown placed or other restorative work performed, as soon as possible. After restoration, the tooth continues to function like any other tooth.

#### **How Long Is The Appointment?**

The appointment ranges from 30-45 minutes. Molar root canal visits could take up to 45 minutes due to multiple roots, compared to 30-minutes for the single root visit treatment

#### **What Can You Expect After Your Treatment?**

It is normal to feel some tenderness in the area for a few days after root canal treatment. Some patients may experience a “flare up (increased pain and /or some swelling)” after root canal treatment. This can be managed by talking to the dental provider who will instruct you on how to manage your pain and/or swelling.



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Symptoms are temporary and the patient can get relief from over-the-counter medication or prescription medication maybe necessary. For a short time after your root canal treatment, the treated tooth may feel slightly different from your other teeth. Care should be taken when chewing or biting on the treated tooth until the patient has had it permanently restored with a crown.

### **Can A Tooth Knocked-Out Be Saved With This Treatment?**

With proper emergency action, a tooth that has been entirely knocked out of its socket often can be successfully replanted and last for years. Pick up the tooth by the crown, not the root. Rinse the tooth with water. Reposition the tooth into the socket, if possible. If not possible, keep the tooth moist (use milk or keep it inside your cheek). Visit our dental practice or a dental office within 30 minutes of the injury or accident.

### **When Does The Patient Return After Treatment?**

Once endodontic (root canal) therapy is completed the tooth will be examined periodically, usually every 6 – 12 months for two years. This allows the Dentist to make sure the tooth is healing properly. Some cases may take longer to heal as compared to the others hence patients are usually recalled back for up to 2 years. Cases that are complicated to treat will be referred to an Endodontist.

### **What Is A Crown Service?**

A crown is a kind of faux tooth that is placed over the original tooth which is treated. Generally, there are three types of crowns; ceramic, half ceramic and half metal, and full metal. The ceramic crown is the costliest, as it would be of the same color as the tooth. The second one will be less expensive than the ceramic, whereas the third type is the least expensive. There can be many other types of materials used to make crowns.

### **How Much Does A Crown Cost?**

The cost of the crown is entirely separate from that of the root canal procedure. The materials used for making the crown substantially add up to the root canal crown cost. The cost can also vary according to the treatments used for complications that occur during the procedure. Our practice allows payment options which can be used to pay off the fees in installments. Insurance may be available by inquiring with our staff.



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### **How Do I Pay For These Services?**

The Center allows patients to pay off the fees in installments, if requested. Payments will be made in two installments – at the first visit and the last visit. Fees must be paid prior to the delivery of the service. Please inform the Center if you have insurance and we will inform you whether this service is authorized and your copayment amount.