

## COMPOSITE (or white) FILLING POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

You have just had a new filling. This is what you may feel:

- Hot Sensitivity that may last a few days.
- Cold sensitivity that may last up to 8 weeks but usually get better.
- Sensitivity to chewing may last up to 8 weeks but gradually subside.
- After the numbing wears off, you may feel you are not biting correctly. Please call our office so your bite can be adjusted. You may not feel this for some time, after treatment, if the bite is only slightly high. Remember, when you are numb it is hard for you to judge if you are biting your teeth together correctly. White fillings are ready to use away so you can chew on them immediately, but they may be sensitive. It is not unheard of for a filling to become loose or fall out. If a filling is left out till for an extended period of time, you may develop more decay and it may be larger and deeper than before.

Possible need for root canal treatment: Any filling no matter what the size or depth, may eventually result in the need of a root canal. The symptoms you look for include:

- Hot sensitivity that lasts longer than a few weeks.
- Hot sensitivity that begins after the tooth has been asymptomatic or problem free for a period of time.
- Spontaneous pain that occurs anytime during the day or night.
- Swelling, either in the mouth or on the face.
- Cold sensitivity that lingers on for many minutes. Sharp instantaneous reaction to cold is probably not a root canal symptom.

**TOOTH BREAKAGE:** When a filling is placed to restore a natural tooth, it reduces the amount of original tooth structure. Consequently, the tooth loses some of its previous strength. Additionally, filling materials are not as strong as natural teeth and may weaken over time, potentially leading to failure. If a previously restored tooth breaks, a new filling may be installed. However, if the defect is substantial, a crown build-up and full coverage crown may be recommended to protect the remaining tooth.