



## **CLIENT CARE INFORMATION SHEET**

### **WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER A DEEP FILLING**

You have been given this information sheet because your dentist is concerned that there may be further problems after today's treatment.

When deep decay or tooth fracture has required a deep filling to be placed to treat the tooth, there is always a possibility that the pulp (nerve) of the tooth, may have deteriorated beyond its ability to recover. This fortunately is not often the case and after some initial hypersensitivity, the tooth will usually settle.

#### **Signs the Tooth Should Settle**

A short lasting hypersensitivity reaction to heat, cold and sometimes pressure, which subsides once the stimulus is removed, is normal following a deep filling. This may last for several weeks. A gradual lessening of the severity of the reaction is a sign that the pulp is healing. Occasionally, a tooth will initially settle well, only to develop worsening symptoms after several weeks or months.

#### **Signs the Tooth May Not Settle**

If the hypersensitivity lingers for more than a few minutes, or if the tooth begins to ache without anything particularly setting it off, the chances of the tooth recovering are more doubtful. If the symptoms are more severe initially, take a pain reliever. Nurofen 2 x 200mg tablets every 3 – 4 hours is best. A gradual improvement in the symptoms is again a good sign. Try to avoid excessive heat, cold or pressure to avoid worsening the symptoms.

#### **Signs the Pulp Damage is Irreversible**

If the tooth is continuously very uncomfortable, does not respond to pain relievers and the symptoms are worsening, then it is likely that the pulp damage is irreversible. The tooth may also become very tender to pressure. If such signs persist, it is important to contact our office (or, if outside normal hours,) the following doctors are available at their homes, so that further treatment can be given to relieve the severe symptoms.