



## **PULPOTOMY POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

Your child has had a pulpotomy (nerve treatment) performed at their treatment appointment today. A pulpotomy is the removal of the nerve tissue and blood vessels inside the crown portion of a primary tooth. Once the decay and tissue have been removed, a medicated filling is placed in the space previously occupied by the nerve tissue and blood vessels.

Primary teeth with pulpotomies will be lost in the same way that other baby teeth are lost when the permanent tooth replacing them dissolves the root enough for them to be lost. With few exceptions, all teeth that have had a pulpotomy will need a stainless steel crown (cap). This is normally done at the same appointment as the pulpotomy. The stainless steel crown helps prevent the tooth from breaking down after the pulpotomy.

Pulpotomies have been shown to have an 85% to 90% clinical success rate in primary teeth. It must be noted however, that some pulpotomies will fail unpredictably and the primary tooth may need to be removed in the future. If you notice a bump or 'pimple' on the gums, if you see swelling, or if your child develops pain in that area, please call our office so we can evaluate the area.

In order to give your child's tooth with the pulpotomy the longest possible life span, please have your child avoid the following foods: ice or ice cubes, hard candies, taffy, caramels, and jaw breakers.

Your child may have some sensitivity after the appointment, but this should resolve within several days. If the discomfort is not improving, or if it persists after a week, please call our office. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about pulpotomies, please do not hesitate to ask.