

What is a Dental Crown?

Crowns are full coverage restorations. Crowns are done for various reasons: to correct an abnormally small tooth, to hide a discolored tooth, to repair a broken tooth, or teeth that have very large fillings that are at risk of breaking. Crowns protect and strengthen teeth that are at risk of fracture or back teeth that have had root canals so they do not break unpredictably. An unpredictable fracture could cause a tooth to be damaged so much that we cannot fix it and it may need to be pulled. Crowns are also placed on top of implants to fill in the space where the tooth is missing. Implant crowns have different steps. Once a conventional crown is treatment planned, there are several steps that occur during two appointments:

Appointment 1

Step 1: Preparation. The tooth is prepared by shaving down the tooth in all areas to create space for the crown material.

Step 2: Final impression. This step can be done digitally with a scanner (hopefully coming soon to Bad River) or with analog impression material. A tiny rope is often pushed into the gums to capture a more accurate impression. This impression is then sent to a lab so the crown can be made.

Step 3: Temporization. A temporary crown is made and cemented with temporary cement. These crowns are designed to come off, so care needs to be utilized to try and prevent it from coming off too soon. This means avoiding sticky foods and pulling floss through rather than up to try to avoid accidentally dislodging the temporary crown.

Appointment 2

Step 4: Delivery. The temporary crown is removed and the tooth is cleaned. The new crown is tried in and the fit and bite are verified. The final crown is cemented with permanent cement.

There are several different types of materials that can be used for crowns. Gold, PFM/porcelain fused to metal (combines metal with a tooth-colored material), and ceramic (tooth-colored) materials can be utilized for a crown. See examples below.



Conventional crown example



Gold Crown



PFM Crown



All Ceramic Crown



Implant crown example

Dental Therapists in Wisconsin

Dental therapists are mid-level providers that can help complement a dental office and the work being done by dentists and hygienists. Dental therapists can practice in many states, but not Wisconsin currently. Dental therapists are specifically trained to work in dental shortage areas (including areas like rural northern Wisconsin!) by providing routine dental care to help reduce inequities in oral health care. They are not able to perform high-level procedures such as surgical extractions, root canals, crowns, or dentures. Dental therapists are able to perform routine procedures such as hygiene and fillings. They are required to be licensed and have a rigorous 3-year training period. There is a hearing scheduled in the capitol on Thursday 12/7/23 with the Senate Health Committee and the dental therapy bill (SB 689) will be discussed.

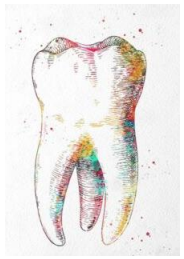


Normal business hours 8:00 – 4:30 PM
Monday – Friday
Closed for tribal holidays

Upcoming closure dates:
12/20/23 PM, 12/22/23 PM,
12/25/23, 12/26/23, 1/1/24, 1/2/24

Direct dental phone number:
(715)685-7887

Services we offer:



Call us with any questions or to schedule your appointment today!

- Comprehensive and periodic exams to monitor your oral health with radiographs
- Prophylaxis: regular dental cleanings
- Sealants: protective covering in deep pits/grooves of teeth to help prevent cavities
- SRP: scaling and root planning, aka “deep cleanings” for patients with periodontal disease
- Fillings: removal and replacement of cavities, replacement of missing tooth structure
- Root canals: removal of nerve within the tooth with a filling put inside tooth
- Extractions: pulling teeth
- Biopsies: testing of suspicious tissue
- Invisalign: removable trays to align teeth
- Whitening trays: trays that fit over teeth to put whitening gel in
- Crowns: full coverage restoration of teeth, aka “caps”
- Implant crowns: caps over screws that are placed in the jaw
 - *We are not placing implants*
- Brides/fixed partial dentures: full coverage restorations that stay in your mouth with pontics or “hanging teeth” to fill in a space or two
- Removable partial dentures: prosthesis that is removed nightly to replace teeth
- Complete dentures: full set of fake teeth that you remove nightly
- Other miscellaneous surgeries

As an IHS clinic we offer our direct services at no charge to tribal members from any reservation regardless of insurance status.

Direct services include things that we do directly at our clinic: exams, cleanings, fillings, root canals, and pulling teeth.

Services that have a fee include things we need to send off to a lab such as: crowns, bridges, partials, dentures, Invisalign



Crown



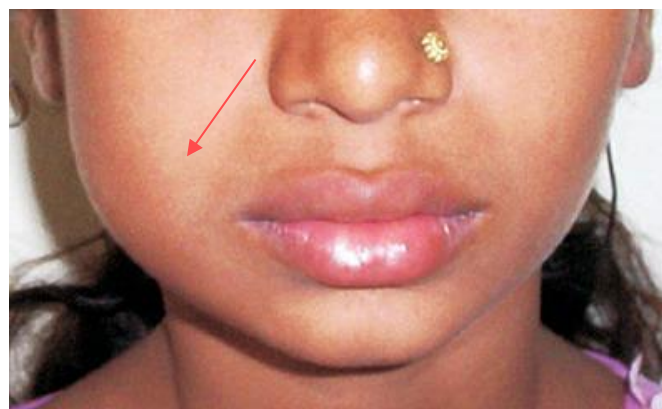
Bridge/fixed partial denture



Removable partial denture



Complete dentures



Example of dental emergency with lower right side of the face swelling from infected tooth.

Please bring a current medication list!

Bad River Dental has an emergency walk in clinic. If you have emergency needs such as facial swelling or uncontrollable pain, we encourage you to come in from 12:30 – 3:00 Monday – Friday on days the tribe is open. Once here, you will be evaluated and seen based on severity.

If you have an urgent need such as a broken tooth without pain, please call us at (715)685-7887. If no answer, feel free to leave a voicemail.

Dental fun fact:

Not everyone needs their wisdom teeth taken out.

Ojibwe dental word of the month:

S/he has tooth grinding =
gijiishkaabidengwaami

Please email v.gokee@badriverhwc.com with any questions or topics you would like addressed in next month's issue! All submissions will remain anonymous.

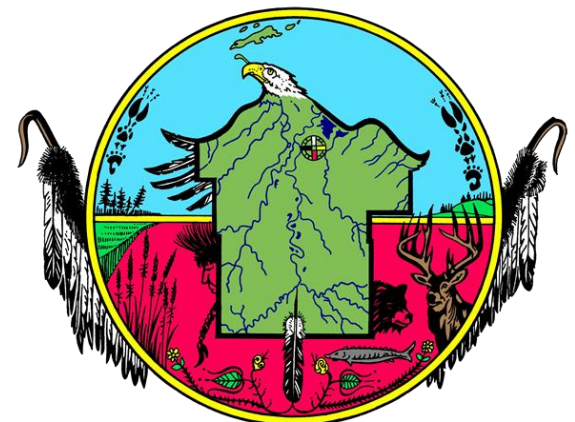
Dental emergency vs a dental urgency

Emergency patient: someone in need of immediate care and attention. Emergent needs include: significant pain, noticeable swelling on the face, difficulty opening their mouth and/or someone who has sustained trauma to the face within the past 24 hours.

If you have trouble breathing, swallowing your own spit, or swelling below the jawbone please go to the ER.

Urgency patient: someone in need of swift dental intervention. Urgent needs include: front tooth chip, broken dentures, lost crown/temporary on teeth without root canals, or need for medical clearance for surgery. These appointments can be scheduled and do not need to walk-in. Feel free to walk in, but emergent needs will be seen first.

Miigwech for reading, please be on the lookout for our next monthly issue!



Works Cited

“About Dental Therapy.” *National Partnership for Dental Therapy*, www.dentaltherapy.org/about/about-dental-therapy. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

“Crowns.” *MouthHealthy*, www.mouthhealthy.org/all-topics-a-z/crowns. Accessed 20 Nov. 2023.

“Senate Bill 689.” *2023 Senate Bill 689*, docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/sb689. Accessed 29 Nov. 2023.