

Milford Dentists

170 Kitchener Rd
Milford
Auckland
Phone: 09 489 6575
www.milforddentists.co.nz

Dear Parent or Guardian of

Thank you for choosing our Oral therapist, Karen Boyd, to provide dental care for your child under the government funded Dental Benefits Scheme. Before you enter into this agreement with Karen, I would like to take the opportunity to clarify a part of this scheme that we as a practice are unable to fulfil. Since 1999 Milford Dentists has been mercury-amalgam free. Instead of using mercury-amalgam to fill back teeth we have been placing tooth coloured composite resin & glass ionomer restorations. The Dental benefits scheme pays for the placement of only mercury-amalgam in cavities in molar & premolar (back) teeth where the cavity covers more than one surface. Please note that single surface, tooth coloured, composite resin & glass ionomer fillings can be placed on the Government Dental benefits scheme.

Should you wish for your child to have tooth coloured composite resin or glass ionomer fillings placed in cavities involving more than one surface in back teeth, we will charge a private fee for this. We will give you an estimate for this treatment & this will include a 10% student discount.

Should you wish to proceed with a mercury-amalgam filling in a cavity involving more than one surface you will need to phone the Dental Benefits help line on **0800 487 3733** to organise this. We will be happy to send a referral note & any relevant x-rays to the relevant practitioner you have chosen.

Also our dentists at Milford Dentists are happy to see & treat your child as a private patient. We also extend a 10% student discount on most treatments.

Please talk to Karen if you need any of the above explaining in more detail.

Please sign below to indicate understanding of the above.

Signed by the parent or guardian of _____

Name of parent or guardian (please print)

Below I have included a media release dated 30/7/09 regarding mercury-amalgam & it's safety

for your information.

Assuring you of my best attention at all times.

Kind regards

Andrea Clarke BDS

30 July 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

The recent announcement by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and its decision not to place any restriction on the use of dental amalgam as a filling material reaffirms the advice the New Zealand Dental Association (NZDA) has been giving to patients and dentists.

NZDA's Executive Director Dr David Crum stated - our advice has been and continues to be that the current worldwide scientific evidence shows dental amalgam is a safe, important and comparatively cost-effective dental filling material.

Scientific studies published by the American Medical Association in 2006 and by the American Dental Association in 2009 provide contemporary evidence that amalgam is a safe and viable dental filling material. This week's comprehensive and important FDA ruling has placed dental amalgam in the same class as gold and tooth-coloured composite filling materials.

The NZDA strongly supports the process of patients and dentists discussing options related to oral health procedures. Patients have the right to ask about and be advised of the advantages and disadvantages of the various materials used to fill teeth and in consultation with the dentist select the most appropriate option after being informed of any risks, possible side effects, benefits and costs. The NZDA supports discussion between dentists and patients that enable patients to make educated decisions regarding their dental care.

For further information please contact:

NZDA Spokesperson on Dental Materials Dr Graham Symes MDS FRACDS