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All you need to know about Intravenous Sedation

Information for your safe and
comfortable treatment

Call centre opening hours

Monday - Thursday
8.30am - 5.00pm

Friday
8.30am - 4.30pm

Tel: 0333 405 0290

(Smile:Together)

Tackling oral health inequality for
healthier happier communities

Introduction

Intravenous sedation will make you feel sleepy and relaxed. This is a very comfortable way forward for most anxious patients. Patients may talk to their dentist while sedated; they might remember this. However, most patients remember very little or nothing of the procedure. You will probably spend up to 2 hours at the clinic depending on the nature of your treatment. The risks associated with sedation are greatly reduced by safe practice; your dentist will discuss any risks with you. All our clinics will have monitoring equipment for patient safety. Dental teams are appropriately trained in the use of sedative drugs and life support.

Before your appointment

Please follow these instructions. If you do not, your appointment will be cancelled.

- Please eat a light breakfast 2 hours before your appointment time.
- Please have small sips of water before your appointment time.
- Do not drink alcohol for 24 hours before or after your appointment.
- If you smoke, it is advisable not to on the day of your sedation. Smoking can cause complications.
- Please don't use any recreational drugs before your appointment.
- Please wear warm, loose-fitting clothing, especially short sleeves or sleeves that can easily be rolled up.
- It's important to remove all jewellery before attending for your appointment, including facial and tongue piercings.
- Long hair should be loosely tied back.
- Nail varnish/false nails and all make-up should be removed as this can interfere with the monitoring equipment.
- If there have been any changes in the medication you are taking since your last visit, please inform the dentist or dental nurse.
- You must be accompanied by a responsible adult, who should stay at the clinic and take you home afterwards.
- Please do not bring any other dependents to the appointment.
- You must also arrange for a responsible adult to stay with you at home for the next 24 hours after the appointment.
- You cannot be responsible for anyone else e.g. children for 24 hours after the sedation.
- You will need to take the following day off from work or school.
- Prior to your treatment, you may be given some numbing cream for the back of your hands. You will be given instructions on how to apply it. If you are unsure, please contact the dental team.
- It is easier to find a vein if you have warm hands, so please wear gloves to keep your hands warm, even if it is a hot day.

Following your appointment

- You will be asked to wait until the dentist or nurse discharges you.
- You and your chaperone will be given verbal and written post-operative instructions.
- Go straight home by car or taxi when you are discharged.
- Rest quietly at home. Do not go to bed until your normal bed-time.
- Follow the post-operative instructions on how to care for your mouth.
- The drugs we use may continue to affect you for up to 24 hours. They can cause drowsiness and forgetfulness, although you may not realise this yourself.
- Do not operate any machinery, domestic appliances, drive a motor vehicle or ride a bike for 24 hours after your treatment.
- Do not make important decisions or sign important documents for 24 hours after the treatment.
- Be careful going up and down the stairs. Do not lock the bathroom door in case you fall asleep or need help.
- If you take regular medication, please take these as normal unless you have been told otherwise.

Chaperone information

Your role is very important!

- Please read all the instructions for the person you are looking after, and let us know if you do not understand anything.
- We will need to talk to you before we do any treatment. You will be required to stay on the premises, unless the dental nurse gives you other instructions.
- If we cannot talk to you to confirm you understand your responsibilities, the sedation will be cancelled.
- A sedated person may give the appearance of being capable of doing housework, driving or making decisions - **they are NOT!**
- Do not let them go to bed until the normal time. It is OK to relax on the sofa, where you can watch over them carefully.
- You will be responsible for looking after the sedated person for the next 24 hours.
- Once the patient is sedated in the surgery, you must return to the waiting room.