



HAPPY CHILDREN

PEDIATRIC DENTAL SEDATION CENTER

PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD'S IV SEDATION DENTAL SURGERY

We have recommended sedation for your child's safety and comfort during dental procedures. IV sedation can help increase cooperation and anxiety and/or discomfort associated with dental treatment. Various medications can be used to sedate a child. A pediatric anesthesiologist will be performing your child's sedation, while a pediatric dentist will be completing the child's dental treatment.

You as a parent/legal guardian, play a key role in your child's dental care. Children often perceive a parent's anxiety which makes them more fearful. They tolerate procedures best when their parents understand what to expect and prepare them for the experience. If you have any questions about the sedation process, please ask. As you become more confident, so will your child.

For your child's safety, you must follow the instructions below.

Prior to your child's sedation appointment:

- Please notify our office of **any** change in your child's health and/or medical condition. Fever, ear infection, nasal or chest congestion, or recent head trauma could place your child at increased risk for complications. Should your child become ill just prior to a sedation appointment, contact our office to see if it is necessary to postpone the sedation.
- Tell us about any prescriptions, over-the-counter, or herbal medications your child is taking. Check with us to see if routine medications should be taken the day of sedation. Also, report any allergies or reactions to medications that your child has experienced.
- Foods and liquids must be restricted in the hours prior to sedation. Fasting decreases the risk of vomiting and aspirating stomach contents into the lungs, a ***potentially life-threatening problem***. We will not proceed with the sedation if you do not comply with the following requirements.



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PLEASE, DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT, THE DAY BEFORE THE SEDATION!!!!

IF YOUR CHILD HAS EATEN FOOD OR DRANK ANY LIQUIDS, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO COMPLETE TREATMENT AND YOUR CHILD RISKS HOSPITALIZATION FOLLOWING HIS OR HER SEDATION.

- Dress your child in loose-fitting, comfortable clothing. This will allow us to place monitors that evaluate your child's response to the medications and help ensure your child's safety. These monitors may measure effects on your child's breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure. Also bring a change of clothes.
- Siblings and other children are not allowed at this appointment, this is so you can focus your attention on your child undergoing sedation.
- If you will be traveling home by automobile or if you must bring any other children with you to this appointment, it is preferable to have two adults accompany the patient home. On the way home, one individual should be able to observe the child's breathing without any distractions, especially if the patient falls asleep while in the car or safety seat.

DURING THE SEDATION APPOINTMENT:

- You, as the child's parent/ legal guardian, **must remain at the office throughout the sedation appointment**. You may not leave the office for any reason. We need you available, so changes of treatment can be discussed and if any emergencies may arise.



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WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DAY OF THE SEDATION APPOINTMENT

- On the day of sedation, you will arrive at the office and check in with front desk. Upon arrival, you and your child will be brought back to a treatment room. Your child's medical history will be updated. We will monitor and record your child's weight and vitals. The dentist and anesthesiologist will review the medical history, weight, vitals, and ensure NPO status.
- **(IF YOUR CHILD HAS HAD ANYTHING TO EAT OR DRINK, THE SEDATION WILL NOT BE PERFORMED.)**
- The **Dentist** will go over the treatment plan and answer any questions you may have about the planned dental treatment.
- You will also meet the **Anesthesiologist** before the appointment begins.
- The anesthesiologist will review your child's medical history with you and do a physical exam. They will evaluate for acute or chronic conditions that puts you at risk for complications. If they discover a concern, you may be rescheduled to optimize any health condition to prevent serious complications. They will also ensure all anesthesia instructions have been followed.
- When all things are cleared by the anesthesiologist, a relaxant (ketamine injection, in the child's arm) is usually given for comfort, while a you are holding your child.
- Once the sedative agent has taken effect and the doctor decides that treatment can now begin, you will be asked to leave your child and wait in the waiting room/car. Your child will then be placed in a papoose board to stabilize the arm so that an IV can be started you may hear brief crying from the IV being started. The anesthesiologist will monitor their vitals and medial status throughout the procedure. They will treat any abnormalities that may arise.



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FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PATIENT, NO PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS ARE PERMITTED IN THE OPERATORY ROOM DURING THE SEDATION PROCEDURE.

RECOVERY AND DISCHARGE

- The anesthesiologist will begin recovery when the procedure is complete. Recovery staff will monitor your child's vitals and medical status in recovery under the supervision of the anesthesiologist.
- Parents will be invited to the treatment room and ask to hold the child until she/he recovers: your child should be responsive but may be drowsy, crying or fussy.
- Children recover from the effects of sedatives at different rates; so be prepared to remain at our office until the doctor has determined your child is stable and the after-effects are minimal.
- The recovery staff will inform the anesthesiologist when they feel your child is ready for discharge. The anesthesiologist will check to personally ensure discharge is adequate. If so, you will be given post-op instructions and sent home.

Follow-Up Call

The staff will call you within 24 hours of the procedure to follow-up with you for any signs of complications from the procedure or anesthesia. If any problem arises prior to receiving the call, you may call the provider who completed the procedure directly. In cases of emergency, dial 911.