



### **Intravenous sedation.**

Intravenous sedation in dentistry is a useful aid for those treatments that are complex, unpleasant or long in duration. The technique is well tried and safe as the patient retains consciousness (the ability to respond to appropriate instructions at all times) and normal reflexes. It is normally completed using a sedative called Midazolam. This agent has several useful properties, which make it a near ideal sedative for dental procedures. It is an anxiolytic agent abolishing fear and anxiety – the patient will feel detached from the proceedings. The gag reflex will be diminished and the patient's sense of time altered – an hour in the dental chair will seem like minutes. The patient should usually suffer amnesia for the duration of the procedure. Sometimes other agents are added as appropriate including pain killers.

### **On the day of treatment**

- Please starve for **6 hours/no milk for 4 hours/no fluids for 2 hours** prior to your sedation appointment time.
- Ensure that the operator is informed of any changes in medical or drug history.
- Unless instructed, take any normal prescribed medication.
- Do not consume alcohol for at least **24 hours** before the procedure.
- Ensure that you have one suitable escort with you for the **duration of the treatment** and for the **remainder of that day**.
- The escort will be responsible for your transport home by car or taxi, **(public transport is not permitted)**.
- Please make other arrangement for childcare, and ensure that your escort **does not bring children with them to your appointment**.
- Please wear sensible footwear – walking skills may be impaired.
- Please wear loose clothing and leave access to arms if possible for placing an intravenous line.
- Please avoid wearing **nail varnish / false nails** as this can affect the reading from the monitoring equipment.



### **After treatment, until the next day**

You will not be discharged from the surgery until the operator is satisfied with your state of recovery. Because of the short acting nature of the drug, this is not usually very long. There are several things that should be avoided following the procedure:

- **Do not drive a car, motor cycle or cycle** – Within this period you would be deemed as driving under the influence of drugs by the courts.
- **Do not operate machinery.**
- **Do not make any important decisions**, as your judgement may be impaired.
- If you are worried about anything after the procedure, contact the operator who will be pleased to give advice.
- Please ensure you have a suitable person to stay with you for the rest of that day, and that you have alternative child care in place. Your escort may not bring children to the appointment.

We advise you to attend for your appointment on time. There are, on very rare occasions, slight delays due to variable and unpredictable treatment time, this is usually kept to minimum

Cancellation on a short notice can be very costly and the appointment can not be offered to another patient. If cancelled, further appointments for treatment may not be offered and the patient may be discharged back to the referring dentist.

Please note that Grace Dental Care is not part of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.