

**Intravenous Sedation Information Sheet for Patient Escorts**

Created: February 2018

For review: February 2020

You have been asked to accompany someone who is having dental treatment under sedation.

Patients can feel less anxious if they receive a sedative drug (medicine) before or during their dental treatment. The drugs used can cause some patients to feel a little disorientated or confused for a short time after the treatment. It is important that someone will be responsible for them and take care of them for the remainder of the day. Occasionally, it may be necessary for someone to stay with them overnight.

It is important that you follow the instructions below:

- The patient will not be allowed to go home until the dentist is satisfied that the patient is in the care of a responsible adult (over 18 years of age). The escort must be present with the patient as they leave the dental surgery. Some patients take a little longer than others to be ready to go home so please be aware that a precise time cannot always be given.
- The patient's judgement (ability to think clearly) is likely to be affected. Patients should not make any irreversible decisions for up to 24 hours following their treatment.
- Patients should be encouraged to rest for a while once they are home. It is not recommended for them to be in charge of others until the next day. Care should be taken when cooking or using domestic appliances.
- Patients should not drive a vehicle, ride a bicycle, operate machinery or drink alcohol until the following day and, in some cases, for up to 24 hours. Owing to the after effects of the drugs used, care should be taken when using the internet for personal communication.
- The dentist will explain to the patient which pain relief medicines they may take.
- Patients should take their usual prescribed medicines unless directed otherwise by their doctor or dentist.

The patient will have been given a contact telephone number if you have any concerns.