

Patient information

Paediatric Dental Treatment with Intravenous Sedation

Liverpool University Dental Hospital

Your dentist has advised your child to have Intravenous sedation

Please Note: if you do not comply with the instructions in this leaflet then treatment may be cancelled.

What is Intravenous Sedation?

Many children are anxious about dental treatment. Sedation usually reduces anxiety allowing your child to accept dental treatment. This form of sedation involves an injection into a vein in the back of their hand or their arm. Once they are feeling more relaxed local anaesthetic may be used in the mouth to “numb” the area to be treated. Your child is still awake and able to talk to us.

Intravenous sedation is not a general anaesthetic.

After treatment you and your child will stay in the department until the dental team feel that your child is ready to go home with you by private transport.

What are the benefits of having intravenous sedation?

Intravenous sedation will help your child feel physically and mentally relaxed. Your child will feel more comfortable and better able to accept dental treatment.

Your child may benefit from sedation if they:

- Are anxious during dental treatment.
- Have an involuntary movement disorder e.g. cerebral palsy.
- Have severe gagging (retching) during dental treatment.
- Have a medical condition that may be made worse by treatment that they find stressful.

The aim of intravenous sedation

The aim of intravenous sedation is to make your child feel relaxed and less anxious so that they accept dental treatment. Your child does **not** go to sleep and they will still be able to talk to us. Sometimes, due to the effects of the drugs, they may not remember some or all of their treatment.

The drugs used for intravenous sedation are not painkillers, so will still need local anaesthetic to numb the area for extractions, oral surgery and most fillings. If your child has a fear of needles, they will not be numbed until the intravenous sedation is working effectively. By this stage, they will usually be very relaxed and not concerned about having an injection in their mouth.

What are the risks of having intravenous sedation?

Intravenous sedation is very safe and effective when it is supervised or carried out by a specially trained team.

Intravenous sedation has five main effects:

- It will reduce your child's anxiety and make them feel relaxed.
- It will make your child feel sleepy.
- It will make them less aware of the procedure and increase cooperation.
- It may result in partial or total loss of memory of the procedure.
- It may make your child unsteady when walking for a few hours following sedation.

Are there any alternative treatments/ sedatives available?

There is an alternative form of sedation that can be offered within the department, and this is inhalation sedation.

Inhalation sedation involves your child receiving a mixture of two gases (nitrous oxide and oxygen) through a small nasal mask that remains present during treatment. It is also called **gas and air** or **relative analgesia**. This form of sedation does not require the use of a needle in the back of their hand or arm, to administer the sedative drug.

What will happen if your child decides not to have treatment?

If your child decides not to have treatment, then the teeth will deteriorate and get worse. They may develop pain or infection in the future.

Your dentist will discuss the relevant options and risks with you and your child before your next dental appointment.

What should your child do?

On the day of their appointment:

Clothing

- Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothes allowing access to their arms as we will need to take their blood pressure and give the sedative.
- Wear flat shoes as they may be unsteady on their feet after treatment.
- They should not wear nail varnish as this may interfere with our monitoring equipment.

Eating

- Eating and drinking before sedation depends upon any medical conditions they have and the treatment they require.

Please follow the advice below that has been chosen for your child (clinician to tick as appropriate):

| | |
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| | Please ensure your child has a light meal up to two hours before their appointment, but avoid fizzy drinks. |
| | Please ensure your child does not eat for six hours before their appointment. Your child can drink clear fluids (water, black tea/coffee, clear apple juice or cordial) up until two hours before their appointment. |

Medication

- Take their routine medication at the normal time

Alcohol and drugs

- Your child should not drink alcohol or use recreational drugs for 24 hours before or after their appointment as it may interact with the sedative drug

Driving

- Your child should not drive or ride any vehicle until the next day

Your child must attend for their appointment with an escort who must:

- Be an adult with parental responsibility, who is prepared to assist them with activities of daily living.
- Not bring any other children or vulnerable adults to the appointment.
- Not be responsible for the care of any other person.
- Must come with your child, stay within the department and take your child home.
- Be aware of their responsibilities for their care.

On arrival for your child's appointment let us know:

- If they have seen a doctor/nurse or had any changes to their medical history since their last dental visit.
- If they are unwell.
- If they are pregnant.
- If they are breast feeding.
- If they have any concerns regarding their proposed treatment.

After your child's treatment, until the next morning:

Your child should:

- ✓ Travel home with the escort, preferably by car or taxi, and not by public transport.
- ✓ Have a responsible adult to stay with them and look after them.
- ✓ Have somebody else to care for any relatives they may usually look after.
- ✓ Take their regular prescribed medication as usual.
- ✓ Follow any other post-operative instructions given to your child by the dentist.
- ✓ Relax for the rest of the day, do not do any strenuous exercise.

Your child should not:

- × Drive any vehicle e.g. car, scooter, bicycle or ride a motorcycle.
- × Operate machinery – including domestic appliances such as irons, kettles etc.
- × Return to school/ college/ work.
- × Travel alone.
- × Make important decisions.
- × Climb ladders.
- × Take any other non-prescribed drugs or alcohol.
- × Be wary of using the internet/ social media (your child's judgement may be impaired).

If you or your child have any questions please ask a member of staff who would be happy to help.

If there are any problems after treatment contact the Paediatric Dental Department on

Tel: 0151 706 5022. Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 5022

We endeavour to keep to your child's appointment time but sometimes we may run behind.

Unfortunately, if you and your child arrive late then we may need to reappoint your child.

If your child misses an appointment, without first cancelling it, your child will be discharged back to their own dentist. If you keep cancelling your child's appointments at short notice then we are likely to request a further consultation (non-treatment) visit.

We always try to be helpful but we do need **you and your child's** cooperation.

If your child needs to cancel their appointment please give as much notice as possible as this may allow somebody else to be treated Tel: 0151 706 5020. Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 5020

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

Paediatric Dental Department

Tel: 0151 706 2000 Ext 5022

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2000 Ext 5022

Author: Paediatric Dental Department

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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