

Patient escort information

Intravenous sedation

You have been asked to accompany someone who is having dental treatment under intravenous (IV) sedation. This leaflet explains what that involves, and what will be expected of you on the day and afterwards.

BEFORE TREATMENT

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

As you will be responsible for the patient following treatment, it is important that you do not bring children or other dependants with you to the treatment appointment.

You will need to attend the sedation appointment with the patient and remain at the practice while treatment is being carried out. You are not expected to stay with the patient during the treatment, but should remain in the waiting area.

We will be unable to provide treatment under sedation if you do not accompany the patient to their appointment.

The patient will not be allowed to go home until the surgeon is satisfied that they are in the care of a responsible adult over 18 years of age. 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.

AFTER TREATMENT

You should arrange for yourself and the patient to travel home by car or taxi following treatment.

The patient's judgement, meaning their ability to think carefully, 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, and we advise that they should not cook or use potentially dangerous domestic appliances for the rest of the day.

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 effects of the drugs used, care should also be taken when using the internet for personal communication.

The surgeon will explain to the patient which pain relief medications they may take. Patients should take their prescribed medication as usual, unless directed otherwise by their doctor or surgeon.

If you need help or advice. If you have any concerns, please contact the practice by phone. For urgent concerns outside normal working hours, call NHS 111, or attend your local emergency department.

Thank you for agreeing to act as a patient escort.