

Intravenous sedation for dental treatment



Information for Community Special Care patients

This leaflet aims to help you understand the treatment you are going to have and contains answers to many commonly asked questions. If you have any other questions or would like further explanation, please ask.

Important: on the day of your appointment

- A responsible adult must escort you and check in with you
- Do **not** bring any children **with you**
- **Tell us** if you are pregnant or breastfeeding
- Do **not** drink any alcohol or take any recreational drugs

If you do not follow these instructions you will not be able to have your treatment.

Please see page 3 for more details.

What is intravenous (IV) sedation?

IV sedation is when a sedative is injected directly into a vein. If you are nervous about having dental treatment or you are having a procedure which may cause discomfort, intravenous (IV) sedation is an effective and safe treatment.

Why do I need IV sedation?

It is an ideal way of helping you to relax if you are nervous about dental treatment or you are having a procedure which may cause discomfort or distress.

What are the benefits?

While under IV sedation, you will feel deeply relaxed but you will still be able to understand and respond to requests from the dentist. You will be unaware of the operation and this form of treatment is ideal for patients who wish to avoid the noise and vibration of the drill.

Are there any risks?

IV sedation is extremely safe when it is supervised by a specially trained dentist.

IV sedation has four main effects:

- It will reduce your anxiety and make you feel relaxed.
- It will make you feel sleepy.
- It will make you unaware of the procedure.
- It will result in partial – or total loss of memory of the procedure.

Are there any alternatives?

- Local anaesthetic alone
- General anaesthetic
- Inhalation sedation.



None of these alternatives may be suitable for you. Your dentist will let you know what will be best for you.

Consent

We must by law obtain your written consent. Staff will explain risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to speak with a senior member of staff again.

You must confirm your consent for the procedure before treatment starts.

Do I need to prepare for IV sedation?

- Take your routine medicines at the usual times.
- Have only light meals and non-alcoholic drinks on the day of your appointment.
- Bring a responsible adult with you. This escort must be over the age of 18 and personally known to you. They must arrive and remain in the building with you. They must be able to escort you home and care for you for the rest of the day. Do not bring your children with you to your appointment.

Where will it be carried out?

The treatment will be carried out in a community special care dental clinic within a health centre. You will be sent details of where you must attend for assessment and treatment.

Your escort can come with you into the clinic, but they may be asked to return to the waiting room while you have your treatment.

What happens during IV sedation?

An extremely thin plastic tube will be put into a vein either in one of your arms or in the back of one of your hands. A drug will then be injected which will quickly make you feel very sleepy and relaxed.

Throughout the procedure you will have a gadget clipped to your finger to measure your pulse and oxygen levels. Your blood pressure will be checked before and after the procedure.

As well as IV sedation, you will be given a local anaesthetic. You will not be aware of being given the local anaesthetic because you will have it after the IV sedation. This involves an injection into the gum surrounding the area that you are having treated and it is similar to those your dentist may have given you for fillings. The injection will take a couple of minutes to numb the area and it ensures that you will feel no pain during your treatment.

The length of time you will be sedated varies depending on the treatment you are having.

What happens after IV sedation?

You will need to stay in our recovery area until you are considered ready to leave the dental clinic.

Until the following day after you have had IV sedation:

- Do not travel alone – travel home with your escort, by car if possible.
- Do not drive or ride a bicycle or a motorcycle.
- Do not use machinery including equipment such as kettles, cookers, irons.
- Do not drink alcohol.
- Do not return to work or sign legal documents.
- Do not go shopping including internet shopping.
- Take care going up and down stairs.



Who can I contact with queries and concerns?

Community Special Care Dentistry Tel: 020 3299 3480

Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleton Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

Tel: **020 3299 3601**

Fax: **020 3299 3626**

Email: **kch-tr.PALS@nhs.net**

You can also contact us by using our online form at
www.kch.nhs.uk/contact/pals

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact PALS on 020 3299 1844.



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