

Entonox

Information for patients

This information sheet explains what entonox is, how it is used, side effects that may occur and recovery period.

Confirming your identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your **name and date of birth** and check your **ID band**. If you don't have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address.

If we don't ask these questions, then please ask us to check.
Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

What is Entonox?

Entonox is a medicinal gas made up of equal parts Oxygen and Nitrous Oxide. It is used to relieve pain and is widely used by the ambulance service and hospitals to ease the pain for procedures and conditions.

How do I use Entonox?

Before you are given Entonox, a nurse will complete a checklist with you to ensure that it is safe for you to use. A nurse will then show you how to use the Entonox correctly.

A mouth piece is connected to a demand valve so you will be able to control how much Entonox you take in. Entonox will begin to take effect immediately when you start to inhale the gas. You will be able to control how much Entonox you use, depending on the amount of pain you experience.

Are there any side effects?

Like all medicines, Entonox may cause side effects, although not everybody will get them. The possible side effects associated with using Entonox include:

- Dizziness
- Light-headedness
- Sickness
- Tingling
- Disorientation.

Less common side effects that may occur if you use Entonox include:

- Problems with the ear due to increased pressure inside the ear
- Tiredness
- Bowel enlargement due to trapped gas.

How long will it take to recover after using Entonox?

The effects of Entonox will wear off quickly once you stop breathing the gas. You will need to stay in the department for 30 minutes after the procedure has finished to ensure that the effects of Entonox have completely worn off.

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

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.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: 020 3299 3601 Email: kch-tr.pals@nhs.net

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

PALS at Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough Common, Orpington, Kent BR6 8ND

Tel: 01689 863252 Email: kch-tr.palskent@nhs.net

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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