

Intravenous sedation: information for escorts

You have been asked to accompany someone who is having dental treatment under sedation. It is important that a responsible, able-bodied adult (over 18 years of age) attends the appointment and takes care of the patient for the remainder of the day. Occasionally, it may be necessary for someone to stay with them overnight.

Why does the patient need an escort?

The medicines used for sedation can cause patients to feel drowsy, unsteady on their feet or confused for a period after the treatment.

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). Please ensure that:

- You are present when the patient arrives for their appointment and remain in the waiting room during the appointment. You must then escort the patient home once the patient has recovered from the sedation.
- You do not bring any children to the appointment or plan to collect children from school or carers on the way home from the appointment, as you are fully responsible for the patient.
- You do not bring any other adult to the appointment unless they are fully independent and require no care or supervision.

Some patients take a little longer than others to be ready to go home so please be aware that a precise appointment finish time cannot be given.

You will be responsible for remembering and repeating the post-operative instructions given by the dentist to the patient as they are likely to forget because of the sedation medicine.

A responsible adult should remain with the patient for the remainder of the day.

What can the patient do after their treatment?

- Patients should be encouraged to rest at home for the remainder of the day.
- Patients should not plan to oversee others until the next day.
- Patients should not drive a vehicle or ride a bicycle or other form of transport including mobility scooters or operate machinery until the following day and, in some cases, for up to 24 hours. The dentist will advise the patient on the day of treatment.
- Patients should not drink alcohol until the following day as this can interact with the sedation medicine and have serious consequences.
- The patient's judgement (ability to think clearly) is likely to be affected. Patients should not make any irreversible decisions or sign any legal documents for up to 24 hours following their treatment.
- Care should be taken when cooking or using domestic appliances.
- Owing to the aftereffects of the drugs used, care should be taken when using the internet for personal communication or internet shopping.

What do I do if I am concerned?

If you have concerns or questions you can call the clinic number which is on the top of the patient's appointment letter or the emergency out of hours contact number is 01424 850792 for Conquest or 01323 449170 for Eastbourne.

Important information

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: 0300 131 4784 or by email at: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Hand hygiene

The Trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: 0300 131 4434 Email: esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:
Michelle Gavagan, Senior Dental Officer

The directorate group that have agreed this patient information leaflet:
DAS

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Responsible clinician/author: Michelle Gavagan, Senior Dental Officer

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