

PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORAL SEDATION

To try to make your child's dental experience a pleasant one, your child will be given a mild sedative of Versed or Halcion. This medication will relax your child and enable him/her to cooperate for the best possible results. Pediatric dentists and pediatricians commonly use these oral sedatives to aid children in providing a tranquil setting for therapy.

It is *extremely important* that your child have an empty stomach during the treatment so the medication will work best with the fewest number of side effects that can accompany an anxious patient. For this reason, our office reserves our morning appointments for our patients requiring sedative procedures.

To help you understand the medication procedure, here are some important points to remember:

1. Please notify our office if your child develops a fever, a productive cough, and/or heavy nasal drainage within 24 hours of the appointment.
2. Your child will not receive a general anesthetic. The medication is a sedative. However, oral sedation does not work for everybody and does have limited effects.
3. Upon arrival, the doctor will measure and administer the medication to your child in a cup mixed in with Children's Tylenol. At first your child may not show signs of sedation. This is not unusual. Within about 15-30 minutes, however, your child will relax to a restful condition that will enable treatment to follow.
4. Nitrous oxide ("happy air", or "laughing gas") and oxygen may also be used for an added effect. This will make the procedure more comfortable for your child.
5. Following the appointment, your child will be groggy and may want to sleep once he/she is home in a comfortable environment. It is appropriate to let him sleep, yet it is most important to wake your child and encourage your child to drink clear fluids, such as Gatorade, water or apple juice. Carefully observe your child's activities for the remainder of the day. Remember, your child's balance is one of the last reflexes to return to normal.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. NO EATING OR DRINKING ANY "CLOUDY" FLUIDS SUCH AS MILK OR ORANGE JUICE AFTER MIDNIGHT EXCEPT PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS.
2. Small amounts of **clear** fluids (Gatorade, water, apple juice) may be given up to 3 hours before the appointment. Please, no milk or orange juice.
3. Please be *prompt* for your appointment because it takes approximately 30 minutes for the medication to take effect.
4. We reserve our morning appointments exclusively for patients requiring sedation, and it is most important to be conscientious and compliant with the appointment time.

WE KINDLY REQUEST THAT ALL SIBLINGS REMAIN IN THE CARE OF ANOTHER ADULT, AS YOUR CHILD WILL NEED YOUR FULL ATTENTION DURING THE SEDATION AND TREATMENT PROCESS.