



## IV SEDATION: Information for Escorts

You have been asked to accompany someone who is having dental treatment under sedation.

- Patients can feel less anxious if they receive a sedative drug (medicine) before or during their dental treatment. The drugs used can cause some patients to feel a little disorientated or confused for a short time after the treatment. It is important that someone will be responsible for them and take care of them for the remainder of the day. Occasionally, it may be necessary for someone to stay with them overnight.
- It is important that you follow these instructions. The patient will have been given a telephone number of who to contact if you have any concerns.
- The patient will not be allowed to go home until the surgeon is satisfied that the patient is in the care of a responsible adult (over 18 years of age). The escort must be present with the patient when they arrive, be able to wait in the building during their sedation and leave with the patient once they have been discharged. 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. You should expect to be in the Practice for at least 1 hour so it is wise to bring something with you to pass the time, e.g. a book or magazine.
- The patient's judgement (ability to think clearly) 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. Care should be taken when cooking or using domestic appliances.
- 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. The surgeon will advise the patient on the day of treatment. Owing to the aftereffects of the drugs used, care should be taken when using the internet for personal communication. The surgeon will explain to the patient which pain relief medicines he or she may take. Patients should take their usual prescribed medicines unless directed otherwise by their doctor or surgeon.
- Please be aware patients may forget some of the information given to them soon after their sedation and you may need to tell them something more than once.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL US AT (571)685-8037.**