

## Community Dental Service

### Information about intravenous sedation



## **What is intravenous sedation?**

Your dentist has recommended that you have intravenous sedation whilst you are having your dental treatment.

It is a sedative drug (medicine) that is given to you to make you drowsy. It will help to reduce your anxiety.

Intravenous sedation is given using a drug called midazolam. It is given by injection into a vein in the back of your hand or in your arm through a cannula.

Your dentist and members of the dental team are trained to give sedation. They watch you closely and treat any problems that may develop. They are also required to use appropriate monitoring equipment during sedation.

You will be monitored after treatment until it is safe for your escort to take you home.

## **What is a cannula?**

A cannula is a thin flexible tube. A needle is used to put the cannula in but is then removed immediately.

It is normal to feel a scratch when the cannula is inserted. Once the cannula is in the vein the sedation drug can be given without using any more needles.

The cannula remains in until the dentist has checked that you have recovered from the sedation, but it will be removed before you go home

## **What if I am pregnant or unwell?**

You need to let the dentist know if you think you may be pregnant. You will need to come back to have your treatment at another time.

You should let the dentist know if you are breast feeding.

If you feel unwell on the day of the procedure, please telephone the clinic on the number provided.

## **Can I eat and drink before my treatment?**

You do not need to starve before your sedation appointment.

Please ensure you have a light meal about two hours before attending and drink fluids as normal.

Please do not drink alcohol for 24 hours prior to your appointment.

## **Do I need to give consent?**

Before any treatment is started the dentist will ask you to confirm consent.

This means that you understand the planned treatment and how it will be carried out.

## **What do I need to do on the day of my treatment?**

Please arrive on time for your appointment. Do not bring children with you.

You have been asked to arrange for someone to attend the appointment with you and escort you home after treatment.

It is essential that this person is available. If you do not attend with an escort you will not be able to have your procedure under intravenous sedation.

Make sure that you have followed the advice given to you by your dentist about eating and drinking before your appointment.

Bring a list of any medicines that you are currently taking with you. You should take your routine medicines as normal on the day of the procedure. Please let the dentist know if your medical history has changed since you last saw the dentist.

It is sensible to wear loose comfortable clothing and flat shoes. You may need to remove contact lenses so remember to take your glasses or replacement lenses for use once the treatment is finished.

The dentist will need to monitor you carefully while you are sedated. To help with this, please remove nail varnish and do not wear excessive makeup or jewellery; wear comfortable loose clothing that will allow access to your arms.

Do not bring valuables with you.

## **What can I expect during my treatment?**

You will remain conscious (awake) during this kind of sedation. You will feel deeply relaxed but will still be able to understand and respond to requests from your dentist.

You may experience a temporary loss of memory during the time that you are sedated. Many patients have no memory of the procedure at all.

You may feel unsteady on your feet for some hours after the procedure. Your ability to think clearly and make judgements may be affected for the next 24 hours. You may experience some forgetfulness.

Once you are sedated the dentist will use local anaesthetic gel - pain relief to numb the site of the dental treatment. Any injections you may need can then be given through this numbed area to reduce the chance of experiencing any discomfort.

You will spend some time recovering following your treatment.

You will be checked by the dentist before you can go home.

You must be accompanied by an able-bodied adult who can take responsibility for you following your treatment. This person may need to stay with you overnight. If arrangements have not been made for someone to accompany you during and after treatment you will not be able to have the sedation.

If you have any questions or are unclear about having your sedation please ask your dentist.

## **What happens after the treatment?**

- Your judgement will be affected by the sedative drug. This is similar to the effects of consuming alcohol.
- You should not drive a car, ride a bicycle or operate machinery until the following day. In some cases, this may be for as long as 24 hours.
- You should not use sharp implements, boil a kettle or cook for the rest of the day.
- You should not take responsibility for the care of others, including children and the elderly until the following day.
- It would be unwise to make any irreversible decisions for 24 hours following your treatment.
- Owing to the after effects of the drug used, care should be taken when using the internet for personal communication.
- Before you are discharged the dentist or dental nurse will give you and the adult accompanying you (escort) important information about your care.
- You will be given information about the sedation you have been given, any local analgesia used and the treatment you have received.
- You will be given a leaflet with our contact information in case you need to speak to us.
- The dentist will also provide details of pain relief if required.

## **Are there any side effects?**

Intravenous sedation is extremely safe when supervised by a specially trained dentist but with the administration of any medicines there are associated risks.

These may include:

- A reduction of oxygen in the blood stream due to poor breathing during sedation. You may be asked by your dentist to take deep breaths to correct this. Your breathing and oxygen levels will be monitored throughout the procedure.
- Bruising at the site of the cannula. This may take several days to fade completely.

Very rare risks include allergic reactions to the sedative drug you have been given or vomiting during the procedure. Your dentist will discuss any concerns that you may have prior to the procedure taking place.

It is important to let your dentist know your medical history including any medicines that you are taking.

The dentist will need to know if you have ever had any problems with having either sedation or a general anaesthetic.

## **Dental clinic contact information**

Warrington - Bath Street Dental Clinic	01925 946293
St Helens Dental Clinic	01744 731395
Chester - The Fountains Dental Clinic	01244 385563
Widnes Health Care Resource Centre	0151 495 5042
Ashfields Primary Care Centre	01270 275151
Moorgate Primary Care Centre - Bury	0161 470 4425
Kingsgate House Dental Clinic - Stockport	0161 204 4720

## **Out of hours dental emergency contact numbers**

### **Cheshire & Merseyside emergency dental helpline**

Telephone: 0161 476 9651

During the 'in-hours' period (08:00-18:00 hours Monday to Friday), if you already have a dentist, you should contact them directly.

If you do not have a regular dentist then the Dental Helpline will triage your call, give advice and guidance to manage your dental problem or assist you to find an appointment, as long as you meet all the eligibility criteria.

## **What happens between 10pm and 8am?**

Patients can still call NHS 111 for urgent dental advice. If patients do call NHS 111 with a dental issue between 8am and 10pm they will automatically be redirected to the dental service.

During the 'out of hours' period (6pm -10pm) Monday to Friday, weekends and Bank Holidays (8am-10pm) call handlers and dental nurses can provide advice and support for all patients, whether they have a regular dentist or not.

## **Greater Manchester Urgent Dental Care Telephony Service**

Telephone: 0333 332 3800

The service is accessible to patients living in Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Middleton, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Glossop, Trafford and Wigan, seven-days-a-week, between 8am and 10pm.

- Patients who are not registered with a dentist can access the service between 8am and 10pm, seven-days-a-week.
- Patients who are registered with a dental practice can access the service between 6pm and 10pm, Monday to Friday and 8am to 10pm, Saturday and Sunday.

Patients can contact the service by calling 0333 332 3800 or NHS 111.

You will be connected to a trained call handler who will ask for a few personal details and undertake an initial assessment. You may then, if deemed appropriate, speak to one of the dental nurses who will complete a further assessment over the phone and provide appropriate advice and a possible dental appointment.

NHS emergency and urgent care services – telephone 111.

**For impartial and confidential advice or information on the services provided by Bridgewater or to receive this leaflet in an alternative format call our Patient Services team on 0800 587 0562.**