

IV Sedation Information Sheet

IV Sedation is **NOT** a general anaesthetic where you are fully unconscious, but it provides conscious sedation to make you feel less anxious and you will be very relaxed. You will be able to understand and respond to everything around you but in reality, many people have very little to no recollection of the appointment.

Midazolam is the most commonly used drug for IV Sedation. They are benzodiazepines or “benzos” for short. They are short-acting, anti-anxiety, sedative drugs that are used to make your dental appointment more comfortable. Fentanyl is an opioid drug and they are a fast-acting medication used often together with Midazolam to give a more comfortable experience as well as provide pain relief.

A small needle that is encased in a soft plastic tube is inserted into a vein close to the surface of the skin, most commonly in the arm. The drugs are then administered through this tube.

The advantage of this method of delivering the drugs to you is that it works very quickly, and we are able to control the amount specifically to you based on how your body reacts to the drug. By measuring your blood pressure, pulse rate, oxygen & carbon dioxide levels and breathing rate we can ensure the appropriate level of sedation is being given throughout to make your treatment comfortable.

It is important to let us know of any medical conditions or medications you may be taking (**including recreational drugs**) as it may make your sedation unpredictable / ineffective.

A support person i.e., a responsible adult must be arranged prior to the appointment to take you home at the end of your appointment as the effects of the drugs takes 24 hours to be eliminated from your body. The support person should stay with you until you’re fully alert. The sedation works on your brain, and you may not be fully aware until the affects have worn off. Therefore, it important that you should not undertake the following activities:

- Operating a motor vehicle/machinery.
- Consume alcohol/recreational drugs.
- Make important personal decisions.

Please let us know if you need a medical certificate.

Very Important Information

Do **NOT** eat or drink at least 4 hours before your appointment.

Do **NOT** consume alcohol / recreational drugs on the day of your appointment.

DO wear warm clothing with loose fitting / exposed sleeves.

A support person must be arranged **BEFORE** the appointment.