

Oral Sedation

Gary D. Sabbadini DDS

Patient Name

Date of Appointment

Because of your child's inability to cooperate in a dental setting and/or the extent of dental care required, you have chosen oral sedation as a means to help them receive necessary treatment. The medication given will help make the appointment easier for your child and allow us to provide better dental care. The medication will be given here in the office and has been dosed out based on your child's age and weight. The medication must be given on an empty stomach; therefore your child should have **nothing to eat for at least 8 hours and nothing to drink for at least four to six hours before the appointment time.** An easy way to remember this is to have nothing to eat or drink after midnight the night before the appointment. If the child has food in his/her stomach, the medication will not be as effective and there is a higher possibility of your child vomiting during the appointment. To maximize the safety of the sedation, your child should not be ill the day of the procedure (i.e. he/she should not have a cough, cold, fever, flu or a stuffy/runny nose.) If your child has some congestion, bring him/her in for Dr. Sabbadini to evaluate. We recommend that another adult accompany you to help with your child while riding in the car, especially if you do not have an approved car seat.

Your child will be given the sedative 30 – 60 minutes before your child's dental appointment time. Some children get very irritable after they take the medication. This does not mean the medication is not working – it merely means that some children get “grouchy” when they are tired. Because every child responds differently to the medication, your child may or may not fall asleep. It will take about 30 - 60 minutes for the medication to sedate your child – if at all. Again, some children fall asleep quickly, and others cry and get very noisy while the medication is taking effect; both situations are normal.

After the medication is given, you will sit with your child while the medication takes effect. After 30 – 60 minutes, your child will be brought back by him/herself to have the dental work completed. This is so the doctor can give his full attention to your child, thereby ensuring maximum safety and efficiency. Since the medication is not a general anesthetic, your child may be awake and will probably move periodically. To insure your child's safety and to facilitate treatment, your child may be placed in a “papoose board” for protective stabilization and support. It has cloth wraps with Velcro to snugly hold your child in place. At least 50% oxygen mixed with nitrous oxide will be administered to your child. This provides good oxygen ventilation and helps maintain a consistent level of sedation. A pulse oximeter will be utilized to monitor heart rate and blood oxygen levels, and a precordial stethoscope may also be used to monitor your child's respiration. Before the work is begun, we will anesthetize (“numb”) your child's teeth with local anesthetic.

Please read and follow these instructions:

1. Have your child wear loose clothing and short sleeves (no pajamas with feet or nylons)
2. Remove finger/toenail polish so the doctor can place the oxygen sensor.
3. Bring your child's favorite warm blanket.
4. Please place a diaper or pull-up on your child if appropriate.
5. **Maintain good oral hygiene prior to the appointment** - the long-term success and esthetics of the tooth-colored materials is dependent on there being minimal bleeding (especially the white crowns in the front). When the hygiene is poor, the gingival (“gum”) tissues bleed profusely.

Most dental offices are not willing or capable of treating children who are unable to cooperate. Please understand there is no “magical” way to provide dental treatment for these children. All possible methods of treatment have various advantages and disadvantages. Oral sedation helps achieve cooperation in children about 50-75% of the time. Unfortunately, there are still a high percentage of children that will be uncooperative throughout treatment. We are limited by the amount of oral medication that can be safely administered to your child. Be assured that our goal is to provide the best possible dental care for your child in the safest possible way. The alternative to oral sedation is either IV anesthesia or to allow your child's oral health to deteriorate.

I have read, understood, and received a copy of the above instructions. I also agree to be responsible for all charges incurred the day treatment is done.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date