



Preparing for your child's oral or IV sedation visit

We have recommended sedation for your child's safety and comfort during dental procedures. Sedation can help increase cooperation and reduce anxiety and/or discomfort associated with dental treatment. Various medications can be used to sedate a child.

If your child is undergoing oral (moderate) sedation, medications will be selected based upon your child's overall health, level of anxiety and dental treatment recommendations. Once the medications have been administered it may take up to an hour before your child shows signs of sedation and is ready for dental treatment. Some children may not experience relaxation but an opposite reaction such as agitation or crying. These are also common responses to the medications and may prevent us from completing the dental procedures. Most children become relaxed and/or drowsy and may drift into a light sleep from which they can be aroused easily.

If your child is undergoing IV (deep) sedation, an Anesthesiologist will administer medications .

Unlike general anesthesia, sedation is not intended to make a patient unconscious or unresponsive. In any case our staff will observe your child's response to the medications and provide assistance as needed.

You as a parent play a key role in your child's dental care. Children often perceive a parent's anxiety, which makes them more fearful. They tolerate procedures best when their parents understand what to expect and prepare them for the experience. If you have any questions about the sedation process, please ask. As you become more confident so will your child.

For your child's safety you must follow the preoperative instructions:

Pre-operative Instructions for oral and IV Sedation

1. Do not say anything that will scare your child such as "The dentist is going to give you a shot". We will tell them everything that will occur but use language best suited for your child's age and understanding
2. Arrive at our office at the scheduled appointment time.
3. We recommend that you bring another adult with you to the sedation appointment. We feel it is very important for you to take care of your child when he/she is in the car seat.
4. Please feel free to let your child bring a favorite blanket or stuffed animal to the appointment if he or she is strongly attached to it.



5. Dress your child in comfortable clothing. We will be attaching monitors to his/her arms. Loosely fitting clothing is preferable for that reason.
6. If your child's health changes, such as being diagnosed with a condition, problem or disease within a week of the sedation appointment, please call the office. Also call us immediately if your child has had an injury to his/her head causing loss of consciousness, vomiting or dizziness.
7. Please let us know on the day of sedation if your child has taken any over the counter medications with the last 24 hours. This is very important to us and to you child's safety.
8. **IMPORTANT!!! DO NOT give your child any food 6 hours before his/her scheduled appointment.**
9. **Clear liquids such as water, apple juice, popsicles and tea may be given 2 hours before his/her scheduled appointment.**
10. **Oral sedation patients only:** You will be given a prescription for the sedative agents to sedate your child **DO NOT ADMINISTER TO YOUR CHILD, WE WILL ADMINISTER THE AGENTS IN THE OFFICE**
11. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to call us: 973-391-1000

During the oral sedation appointment

1. If any sedative agents are administered to your child before he/she is taken to the treatment room we will ask you to watch your child closely as he/she may become sleepy, dizzy, unsteady, uncoordinated or irritable.
2. You will need to remain next to your child to prevent injuries that may occur from stumbling/falling. Keeping your child calm but distracted from the unfamiliar surroundings is often helpful.
3. You WILL NOT be permitted to remain in the treatment room throughout treatment.
4. You or another parent must remain at the office throughout the sedation appointment. You may not leave the office for any reason.



5. The doctor and staff will evaluate your child's health status before he/she is discharged home. Children recover from effects of sedatives at different rates so be prepared to remain at your office until the doctor has determined your child is stable and the after effects are minimal.
6. At discharge your child should be responsive but may be drowsy, crying or fussy.

During the IV sedation appointment

1. You WILL NOT be permitted to remain in the treatment room during administration of medications nor throughout treatment.
2. The Anesthesiologist will administer medications and your child will become sedated shortly thereafter.
3. You or another parent must remain at the office throughout the sedation appointment. You may not leave the office for any reason.
4. The doctor and staff will evaluate your child's health status before he/she is discharged home. Children recover from effects of sedatives at different rates so be prepared to remain at your office until the doctor has determined your child is stable and the after effects are minimal.
5. At discharge your child should be responsive but may be drowsy, crying or fussy.