

Informed Consent Discussion for Anesthesia/Sedation

Patient Name: _____ **Patient's Weight:** _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Initials: _____

State law requires that we obtain your consent for your child's contemplated dental treatment. Please read this form carefully and ask questions about anything you do not understand. If you have questions, please call. The doctor is on call for emergencies.

Facts for Consideration

Anesthesia is a matter of degrees on a continuum beginning at a low level called "light" and adjusted to lighter or deeper levels depending on the patient's tolerance for pain and/or response to the drugs used.

Occasionally during dental treatment, patients cannot understand or cooperate due to psychological or emotional immaturity, a cognitive, physical or medical disability, or fear and anxiety. Under such conditions the patient may become dangerous to themselves, the staff, and the dentist due to uncontrolled patient movement. In addition to behavior management through communication techniques or immobilization to provide safe delivery of dental treatment, the dentist may also identify the need for sedation or anesthesia for the patient's comfort and management.

Patients normally require local anesthesia, but may also require light to moderate conscious sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia for their comfort during the performance of dental restorations or surgical procedures. Your dentist will recommend and explain to you which type of anesthesia might be appropriate for your child's individual dental needs.

Option I: Nitrous Oxide (Oxygen Inhalation Sedation)

Initials of the Patient or Patient Representative are required

_____ Nitrous Oxide (Oxygen Inhalation Sedation) is a mild form of conscious sedation used to calm an anxious patient. A colorless, odorless gas with no explosive or flammable properties can act as a pain buffer as well. Oxygen is given simultaneously with the nitrous oxide through a small mask placed over the nose. Pure oxygen, given at the end of treatment, is intended to flush the nitrous oxide out of the patient's system and minimize the effects of the gas. The patient is observed while nitrous oxide is administered and until the patient has fully recovered from its effects. Once the nitrous oxide is flushed out of the patient's system, the patient can resume normal activities.

_____ Risks include, but are not limited to: Temporary inability to perceive one's spatial orientation and temporary numbness and tingling. Nausea and vomiting may also occur. If the patient will not accept the mask, Nitrous Oxide (Oxygen Inhalation Sedation) cannot be used.

_____ Potential benefits: The patient remains awake and can respond to directions and questions. Nitrous oxide helps overcome apprehension, anxiety, or fear.

_____ **Patient may have a light snack two hours prior to administration of nitrous oxide.**

Option II: Conscious Sedation (Antihistamine/Benzodiazepine Combination)

Initials of the Patient or Patient Representative are required

_____ Conscious sedation is a controlled, drug induced, minimally depressed level of consciousness that allows the patient to breathe independently and continuously respond appropriately to physical stimulation and/or verbal command, e.g. "open your eyes."

_____ This type of anesthesia will be administered orally (a drink) or in pill form. These medications were chosen for their high success rate and safety factor. It will be given to the patient approximately 30-60 minutes prior to the dental work being started.

_____ It takes approximately 30-45 minutes for the relaxant to take effect. Due to the effects of the pre-medication, your child's temperament may change. Some children become quite sleepy, typically wobbly or silly, while some become agitated. **You will have to hold them or hold their hand to support them any time they want to move from one location to another for a full 24 hours following the pre-medication administration.** If you have any problems or need assistance, please ask for help.

_____ Risks include, but are not limited to: Dizziness, nausea, and vomiting. Adverse reactions to medication including allergic and life-threatening reactions are possible, though rare. Complications may require hospitalization. With any patient, reflexes are delayed.

Children: Patients can have an immediate response to oral conscious sedation similar to a temper tantrum before the medication calms them. Patients should not return to school after dental sedation treatment because the effect lasts for approximately 24 hours.

Adults: Patients should not drive a car or operate machinery for 24 hours because the effects of sedation remain in the system even after the patient is awake and mobile.

_____ **Potential benefits:** Pain is lessened or eliminated during the dental treatment. Stress and anxiety are greatly reduced and often there is no memory of the treatment.

_____ **Administration of conscious sedation (Antihistamine/Benzodiazepine Combination) requires that the patient have nothing to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to treatment.**

Option III: General Anesthesia (with Anesthesiologist)

An anesthesiologist is brought into the office and the patient is put completely to sleep. **The parent should discuss all details, risks, and benefits of general anesthesia with the anesthesiologist.**

_____ **Administration of General Anesthesia requires that the patient have nothing to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to treatment.**

I have read and understand this consent form. I understand that the non-refundable pre-medication fee is required to reserve the given time for my child. All questions have been answered in a satisfactory manner.

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ DATE _____

WITNESS _____ DATE _____

We look forward to helping your child through this important visit. Our goal is to help your child to be as comfortable as possible.

Thank You