

University Dental Hospital of Manchester
Department of Child Dental Health

Information for Patients

Treatment with Intravenous Sedation

Propofol is a medicine which is usually used during general anaesthesia (operations when you are asleep) but when we use it in lower concentrations it acts as a sedative to help our patients feel really relaxed. This is called intravenous sedation.

Intravenous sedation is used to make you feel more relaxed and less anxious or worried about your dental treatment but you will still be able to communicate throughout. You will not be asleep during the treatment, but due to the effects of the drugs used you may not be able to remember much about the procedure.

There is a lot of information about the service and what will happen at your visit on our website: www.mft.nhs.uk and enter 'Adolescent intravenous sedation service' into the search box. The link will take you to the AIVS page.

Please read these instructions carefully as failure to follow the advice may result in your treatment appointment being postponed for safety reasons.

Before your appointment

1. Eat a light meal such as tea and toast or a sandwich at least four hours before your appointment. After this you **must not** eat or drink anything else before your treatment.
2. Please do not smoke or consume alcohol for 24 hours prior to the appointment.
3. You must be accompanied by a **legal guardian** who must be present in the building before we can begin your treatment. You will need to be taken home by car or taxi. The accompanying adult must not be in charge of any other person, including children, so that they are able to care for you. You will need someone with you to look after you for 24 hours after sedation.
4. If you are taking any medicines they should be taken at the usual times (unless otherwise stated) and should be brought with you.
5. If you have a cold or are unwell, please telephone the numbers at the end of this leaflet to re-arrange your appointment.

6. Please remove nail varnish and false nails before your appointment as these can interfere with our monitoring equipment.
7. Please leave any jewellery at home. No responsibility can be taken for valuables lost on the Dental Hospital premises.

What to expect during your appointment

On the day of your procedure you will firstly have a discussion with the dentist. They will check your teeth and explain to you the treatment planned for the appointment. You can ask them any questions which you may have. You will meet the sedation nurses who will complete pre-operative checks and place an anaesthetic cream on both of your hands, this will numb your skin and will stay in place for at least 30 minutes. You will also meet the anaesthetist who will talk to you about sedation.

The anaesthetist will place a cannula (a small plastic tube) into a vein in the back of your hand, through which he/she will give the sedation drugs throughout the treatment. Once you feel really relaxed we will complete the planned dental treatment. This usually lasts 45-60 minutes or so depending on how much work you need, you may require a few visits to the service. You will still need local anaesthetic (numbing) if you are having a filling or an extraction. We will use cream on your gum first so that the local anaesthetic is more comfortable.

After your appointment

After the dental treatment is completed we will ask you to stay in our recovery room for a while to allow the effects of the sedation drugs to wear off. The team will observe you and decide when you are ready to go home. You must be taken home by car or taxi only and cannot travel home by public transport. Although you may recover quite quickly, the effects of your sedation may not wear off entirely for 24 hours. During that time you must take extra care by:

1. Not going to school the following day.
2. Not going out alone, driving a car, riding a bicycle, operating machinery or domestic appliances.
3. Not drinking any alcohol, making important decisions or signing legal documents.

If you follow these instructions, you should find your treatment under sedation both pleasant and uneventful. Please feel free to ask any member of the sedation team any questions that you may have about your treatment.

If you have any concerns

If you experience any problems or have any worries or concerns, please telephone the Department of Child Dental Health on telephone number (0161) 393 7732 between the hours of 09.00 and 17.00 Monday- Friday.

Outside these hours please contact your child's dentist or your local A& E department.