



HAMILTON CO. PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

## Sedation Preoperative Instructions

We have recommended sedation for your child's safety and comfort. Sedation can help increase cooperation and reduce the anxiety and discomfort associated with dental treatment. Local anesthetic, nitrous oxide, medical immobilization (secure blanket, papoose board), and a mouth prop may also be used to provide safe and effective care.

Once the medication has been administered, it may take up to an hour before your child shows signs of sedation and is ready for dental treatment. Most children become relaxed and drowsy and may drift into a light sleep. Unlike general anesthesia, sedation is not intended to make a patient unconscious or unresponsive. Some children may not experience relaxation but an opposite reaction such as agitation or crying. This may prevent us from completing the dental procedure. In any case, our staff will observe your child's response to the medication and provide assistance as needed.

You, as parent or guardian, play a key role in your child's dental care. You are encouraged to accompany your child to the pre-sedation area, but we require you to wait in the waiting room through the duration of dental treatment.

Your child may be required to complete a physical no more than 30 days prior to the sedation appointment date. The doctor will inform you if such a physical is necessary.

### **Please follow the instructions below to help ensure your child's safety**

- Prior to the sedation, notify our office of any changes in your child's health or medical history. Illness, cough, runny nose, fever, or recent head trauma could place your child at increased risk for complications. Should your child become ill just prior to a sedation appointment, contact our office immediately.
- Tell us about any prescribed, over-the-counter, or herbal medications your child is taking. Check with us to see if routine medications should be taken the day of the sedation. Also, report any allergic reactions to medications that your child has experienced.
- Food and liquids must be avoided in the hours prior to sedation. Fasting decreases the risk of vomiting and aspirating stomach contents into the lungs. We will NOT proceed with the sedation if you do not comply with the following requirement: **NO FOOD OR DRINK AFTER MIDNIGHT THE NIGHT BEFORE THE SEDATION!**
- Dress your child in loose-fitting, comfortable clothing. This will allow us to place monitors that evaluate your child's response to the medications and helps to ensure your child's safety. These monitors measure your child's breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure.
- It is preferable that two adults accompany your child home. One individual should observe your child's breathing without any distractions, especially if they falls asleep while in the car or safety seat.
- If any sedative medications are administered before your child is taken to the treatment room, we will ask you to watch your child closely as they may become sleepy, dizzy, unsteady, uncoordinated, or irritable. You will need to remain next to your child to prevent injuries that may occur from stumbling or falling.
- You, as the child's parent or legal guardian, must remain at the office throughout the sedation appointment. You may NOT leave the office for any reason.
- The doctor and staff will evaluate your child before discharge. Children recover from the effects of medication at different rates, so be prepared to remain at our office until the doctor has determined your child is stable and the after-effects are minimal. At discharge, your child should be responsive but may be drowsy, crying or fussy. Once home, your child must remain under adult supervision until fully recovered from the effects of sedation.

*Dr. Laura Juntgen*  
13430 North Meridian Street, Suite 165  
Carmel, Indiana 46032 Phone (317) 846-5893  
[www.hcpdent.com](http://www.hcpdent.com)