NHS
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

# Information for patients and carers

## Inhalation Sedation for Children

## What is inhalation sedation?

Sedation helps you relax and cope with fears or anxiety about having dental treatment. With this type of sedation, a mixture of gas and air (laughing gas) is given through a small hood over your child's nose.

## How will it make them feel?

The sedation may make them feel warm, floaty or drowsy. It is not a general anaesthetic and therefore will not make them fall asleep. Your child will be awake and able to talk.

## Are there any risks?

Occasionally a child may feel dizzy or sick however, this is rare and is easily managed by giving less gas and air, so they will feel better. Your dentist or therapist will talk to you in more detail if there are any other risks before you sign the consent form.

## Do they need local anaesthesia (dental injection)?

Your child will usually need local anaesthesia to numb the tooth before treatment. The dentist or therapist will discuss this with you further if your child does not need this.

## Who might not be suitable for sedation?

Your child needs to be able to breathe through their nose and therefore if they have a cold or hay fever it will not be possible to carry out their treatment until they can breathe clearly.

Patients need to be able to communicate and therefore this may not be suitable for those with a learning disability.

## Is treatment always successful this way?

Inhalation sedation is very effective but unfortunately, it is not always possible to carry out treatment this way, and you will then have a discussion with the dentist or therapist as to the way forward.

## Consent

We want you to be involved in your child's care and if you decide to go ahead with treatment, you will be asked to sign a consent form. This states that you wish your child to have the treatment, and you understand what it involves. Only a parent or legal guardian can sign the consent form.

## Before treatment checklist

- Your child should come accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, (please check if you are unsure about this)
- Do give prescribed medication as normal unless told otherwise and let the team know of any changes in your child's health
- The child can eat and drink normally, there is no need to starve
- If your child is unwell on the day of the appointment, please ring to check with the team
- So you are able to focus on the child having treatment, please do not bring any other young children with you

## After the appointment

When the treatment is finished, the team will monitor your child and give you advice about caring for your child after both a sedation and dental procedure.

Your child may feel unsteady and therefore please hold their hand when leaving.

Your child may go back to school; it is very important that you let the school know they have had sedation and do not do any sports either at school or afterwards.

If your child has had a local anaesthetic (dental injection), please take care that they do not bite their lip, cheek or tongue as it will be still numb for a while.

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact Special Care Dentistry department on:

Chorley:**01257 245660** and ask to speak to a member of the Special Care Dentistry team

Walk in Centre Skelmersdale: Direct line: **07895 208608**

## Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk
www.nhs.uk
www.accessable.co.uk
www.patient.co.uk
www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware
https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

## Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.
## This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:
patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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