

# INFORMED CONSENT DISCUSSION FOR ANESTHESIA/SEDATION

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 person's tolerance for pain and/or response to the drug 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 they may become dangerous to themselves, the staff, and the dentist. 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 a chemical sedation or anesthesia for the person's comfort and behavior management.

People may require local anesthesia, 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 individual medical/dental need.

## Option 1: Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen Inhalation Sedation

Patient's/Patient's Representative  
Initials Required

\_\_\_\_\_ Nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation is a mild form of conscious sedation used to calm an anxious person. A colorless, odorless gas that has no explosive or flammable properties, it 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 the treatment, is intended to flush the nitrous oxide out of the person's system and minimize the effects of the gas. The person is observed while nitrous oxide is administered and until the person is fully recovered from the effects.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Risks include, but are not limited to:* An early effect is an inability to perceive one's spatial orientation and temporary numbness and tingling. Nausea and vomiting may occur. If the person will not accept the mask, nitrous oxide/oxygen cannot be used.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Potential benefits:* The person remains awake and can respond to directions and questions. Nitrous oxide helps overcome apprehension, anxiety, or fear.

## Option 2: Local Anesthesia

Patient's/Patient's Representative  
Initials Required

- \_\_\_\_\_ Anesthetizing agents ("Novocain") are infiltrated into a small area or injected as a nerve block directly into a large area of the mouth with the intent of numbing the area to receive dental treatment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Risks include, but are not limited to:* It is normal for the numbness to take time to wear off after treatment, usually two to three hours. However, it can take longer and rarely the numbness is permanent if the nerve is injured. Infection, swelling, and allergic reactions, discoloration, headache, tenderness, at the needle site, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and cheek, tongue, or lip biting may occur.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Potential benefits:* The person remains awake and can respond to directions and questions. Pain is lessened or eliminated during the dental treatment.

## Option 3: Conscious Sedation

Patient's/Patient's Representative  
Initials Required

- \_\_\_\_\_ Conscious sedation is controlled, drug induced, minimally depressed level of consciousness that allows the patient to breathe independently and continually respond appropriately to physical stimulation and/or verbal command, e.g., "open your eyes."
- \_\_\_\_\_ This type of anesthesia may be administered orally (a drink or pill) or through a tube or needle in the vein.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Risks include, but are not limited to:* Infection, swelling, discoloration, bruising, headache, tenderness at the needle site and vein, dizziness, nausea and vomiting can occur. Adverse reactions to medication including allergic and life threatening reactions are possible, though rare. Complications may require hospitalization or even result in brain damage or death. With any person, reflexes are delayed. Children can have an immediate response to oral conscious sedation similar to a temper tantrum before the medication calms them. Adults should not drive a car or operate machinery for 24 hours because the effects of the sedation remains in the system even after the person 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.

## Option 4: Deep Sedation

Patient's/Patient's Representative  
Initials Required

- \_\_\_\_\_ Deep sedation is a controlled, drug induced state of depressed consciousness from which the patient is not easily aroused, which may be accompanied by a partial loss of protective reflexes, including the ability to maintain an open airway independently and/or respond purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal command.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This type of anesthesia is called light general anesthesia or "twilight sleep".
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Risks include, but are not limited to:* Infection, swelling, discoloration, bruising, headache, tenderness at the needle site may occur. Dizziness, nausea, and vomiting may occur. Adverse reactions to medication including allergic and life threatening reactions are possible, though rare. Complications may require hospitalization or even result in brain damage or death. A responsible escort must bring the person to the office and take that person home. Patients should not drive a car or operate machinery for 24 hours because the effects of the sedative remain in the system even after the person 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.

## Option 5: General Anesthesia

Patient's/Patient's Representative  
Initials Required

- \_\_\_\_\_ General anesthesia is a controlled, drug induced state of unconsciousness, accompanied by partial or complete loss of protective reflexes, including inability to independently maintain an airway and/or respond purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal command.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This type of anesthesia is commonly administered in a hospital or surgery center.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Risks include, but are not limited to:* Infection, swelling, discoloration, bruising, headache, tenderness at the needle site may occur. Dizziness, nausea, and vomiting may occur. Adverse reactions to medication including allergic and life threatening reactions are possible, though rare. Complications may require hospitalization or even result in brain damage or death. A responsible escort must bring the person to the office and take that person home. Patients should not drive a car or operate machinery for 24 hours because the effects of the sedative remain in the system even after the person is awake and mobile.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Potential benefits:* Pain is eliminated and the patient has no recollection of the surgical procedure.

