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**INFORMATION AND CONSENT FOR CONSCIOUS SEDATION**

We believe that all children should receive excellent oral health care free from pain or harsh treatment. While most do well in the dental office, there are times when children will not or cannot cooperate sufficiently to allow needed dental procedures to be accomplished. This can be due to the level of cognitive development, anxiety or resistance. In these cases, one treatment option is to use conscious sedation to facilitate dental care. We understand parents feel a need to be with their child during this procedure, however in our experience, the child seems to do best without their parents with them. We will have you wait in the waiting area and if needed we will come and take you back to be with your child. Please read carefully about the expectations and potential risks associated with light sedation.

Sedation techniques usually involve the child taking a sedative medication by mouth, which is enhanced by breathing nitrous oxide (laughing gas). When ideal results are achieved with sedation, your child will be awake and aware of their surroundings. Sometimes the child may appear to drift off to sleep. Children who are usually frightened by noises or new situations will, with sedation, become more peaceful and tend to react calmly. Because we are not putting your child under general anesthesia, these medications do not eliminate pain. Local anesthesia will be used in the area needing treatment. In addition, sedation may require the use of protective stabilization (see separate protective stabilization consent form). This is used to prevent sudden movements that could result in less than ideal treatment results.

While we always hope for the best results, the use of sedations does not guarantee success. After receiving the appropriate safe dose, up to 35% of children may still be sufficiently uncooperative to treat safely. Children who approach dental treatment with a combative attitude, or have a tremendous fear tend to be poor candidates for sedation. These children may experience a heightened sense of agitation when given sedation. Patient safety is paramount, and excessive bodily movements and attempts to “escape” may result in the decision to discontinue treatment.

Although very rare, the medication may cause side effects such as nausea, vomiting, allergic reaction, breathing difficulties, disorientation, prolonged drowsiness, swelling, itching, convulsions, seizures, or headaches. Although extremely rare, more serious complications such as cessation of breathing or shock could arise.

To minimize the possibility of unfortunate side effects, special scheduling will be required as well as the use of monitoring devices. There will be a special management fee charged for each appointment needed. This fee will be due whether or not your child allows treatment to be rendered. This fee is usually not covered by dental insurance.

Your child may cry loudly at the beginning of the procedure and then lightly fall asleep, perhaps awakening at different points during the procedure. It is also possible your child may cry during the entire procedure. Despite the loud demonstration, the sedation usually creates an amnesic effect, therefore not allowing your child to have a clear memory of the procedure.

Medications to be used:

**ALPRAZOLAM (XANAX) along with nitrous oxide** (To be given in the office at time of appointment)

**THE CHILD’S LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST BE PRESENT AT THE OFFICE FOR PROCEDURE.**

**I have read the form above and the doctor has answered all questions to my satisfaction.**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**PROTECTIVE STABILIZATION INFORMATION AND CONSENT**

Protective stabilization can be achieved with the help of dental personnel or parent holding the head, hands and arms and/or feet and legs of the patient.

**Indications**

Protective stabilization may be necessary when:

- A patient requires immediate diagnosis and/or urgent limited treatment and cannot cooperate due to emotional and cognitive developmental levels or lack of maturity or medical and physical conditions;
- Emergent care is needed and uncontrolled movements risk the safety of the patient, staff, dentist, or parent without the use of protective stabilization.
- A previously cooperative patient quickly becomes uncooperative during the appointment and in order to protect the patient's safety and help to expedite completion of treatment.
- A sedated patient may become uncooperative during treatment.
- A patient with special health care needs may experience uncontrolled movements that would be harmful or significantly interfere with the quality of care.

**Benefits**

Protective stabilization has the following benefits:

- Reduction or elimination of untoward movements.
- Protection of the patient, staff, dentist, or parent from injury.
- Facilitation of quality dental treatment.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE AND UNDERSTAND THAT PROTECTIVE STABILIZATION MAY BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE TREATMENT IN A SAFE MANNER FOR MY CHIILD.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date