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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 also 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:
MIDAZOLAM (VERSED)
Along with Nitrous Oxide

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