



## Guide to Your Child's Sedation

-You and Dr. Paulson have agreed to treat your child using an oral sedative. The sedative comes in the form of a flavored liquid that will be given to your child prior to his/her dental treatment. The type/combination of drugs used is individualized according to your child's temperament, history of behavior during medical treatment, and body weight. We will be sedating your child using:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Midazolam (Versed)** is our strongest sedative and is usually used in patients under 7 and patients who we anticipate will have the most difficulty during treatment. Your child will seem very silly/drowsy 10-20 minutes after its administration. It's maximum effect will last about 45 minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Diazepam (Valium)** is commonly used on patients who are nervous/anxious about the dental work but can still cooperate for treatment. Your child will seem very relaxed 30-50 minutes after taking the cocktail. The relaxed feeling will last for 2-3 hours.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hydroxyzine** is an anti-anxiety medication that also prevents nausea and vomiting. Dr. Paulson usually adds this medication in small amounts to keep your child from feeling sick.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Oxazepam (Serax)** is the only sedative we use that comes in a pill form. It is a light sedative that will help your older child feel more relaxed prior to a difficult dental procedures. The pill takes about an hour to take effect and can only be given at our clinic.

-Nitrous oxide gas will be combined with the oral medication during treatment to ensure your child's relaxation and comfort.

-Dr. Paulson does not sedate your child to the extent where he anticipates he/she will sleep throughout the procedure. While sleeping is not intended, sometimes, your child may take a little nap during the treatment.

-Using an oral sedative is NOT a guarantee the dental treatment will go smoothly. Many children have "paradoxical reactions" to the sedative and become uncooperative during treatment. If this occurs, Dr. Paulson will consult with you about the best way to treat your child moving forward.

### DAY OF SEDATION CHECKLIST:

- Try not to discuss the dental appointment with your child prior to coming into the office. Tales of past difficult trips to the dentist often increases his/her anxiety.
- Update your child's medical history AND current medications.
- Try not to bring other children to the sedation appointment.
- If travelling from out of town, two adults are required to adequately monitor your child on the ride home.
- NO FOOD 3 HOURS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.**