Information for parents/guardians of children requiring procedural sedation

Please read this information before your child has a procedure carried out under sedation. Our staff will answer any questions you have.

What is procedural sedation
Procedural sedation involves giving medication to your child to reduce your pain and distress so they can receive the treatment they need as quickly and as safely as possible.

The sedation can be given by breathing it in, drinking it or through an IV drip. Your child will be given the most effective type of sedation they need.

The sedation will make your child sleepy so they are less aware and anxious. This will also reduce your stress. Before we start sedation, we need to know about your child’s health, particularly if they are allergic to medication.

We will explain everything to you before asking for your written consent. Please share any concerns you have with the staff caring for your child. They will answer all your questions.

Before you give your consent for your child to be sedated it is important that you understand the possible risks.

How you can help your child

Before the procedure
- do not hide the fact your child may have some pain
- answer all questions honestly
- talk about things your child likes to distract them
- remain calm - if you are upset your child will pick up on your feelings.

During the procedure
- staying with your child is usually a great help
- remind your child about the things they like
- it is not helpful for your child to decide when the procedure happens - bargaining, criticism and apologies are strongly discouraged
- time frames such as ‘nearly finished’ are not helpful.

After the procedure
- focus on all the positive things your child did.

Going home
- stay with your child as they wake up - they need to see your familiar face
- please make sure you have your child’s discharge advice with you before going home
- please ask the doctors and nurses any questions you have before going home.

Thank you for helping us care for your child.

Your child will be monitored carefully by trained staff throughout the sedation process until they are fully awake.

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