



Escorting a patient for a dental procedure under anaesthetic

You have been asked to accompany someone who is having a dental procedure under general anaesthetic. It is important that someone will be responsible for them and take care of them for the remainder of the day and overnight. The escort must not be responsible for any other adults or children during this time.

The patient will not be allowed to go home until the dentist or anaesthetist is satisfied that the patient is in the care of a responsible adult (over 18 years of age).

The escort must be present with the patient when they leave the day surgery unit. Some patients take a little longer than others to be ready to go home so please be aware that a precise time cannot always be given. You must arrange that you and the patient travel home in a private car or taxi.

It is important that you follow these instructions when looking after the patient;

- The patient should not be left on their own for the 24 hours after their procedure.
- The patient's judgement (ability to think clearly) is likely to be affected. Patients should not make any irreversible decisions for up to 24 hours following their treatment for example, they should not sign any legal documents.
- The patient should be encouraged to rest for a while once they are home.
- The patient should not be in charge of others for 24 hours.
- The patient should not use cookers or other domestic appliances for example, kettles for 24 hours.
- Patients should not drive a vehicle, ride a bicycle, operate machinery or drink alcohol for 24 hours.
- Owing to the after effects of the drugs used, care should be taken when using the internet/social media for personal communication.

Patients should take their usual prescribed medicines unless directed otherwise by their doctor or dentist.

Patients should follow the written self care advice given to them by the dentist.

The patient will have been given the "General Anaesthetic" factsheet which contains self-care advice and the following emergency contact numbers.

Further information

If you have any queries about your procedure please contact your local dental clinic during opening hours.

During out-of-hours (evening, weekends and Public Holidays) please contact NHS24 on 111

We are listening - how did we do?

We welcome your feedback, as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:

- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website: www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/feedback or share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk or 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 704704 ext. 2236 Monday-Friday between 10am-4pm (answerphone available).