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NHS Grampian

Procedural sedation in the Emergency Department

Information for patients and carers

Patient name: .....

Member of staff giving advice: .....

Emergency Department
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary

What is procedural sedation?

Procedural sedation is the use of sedative medications to allow short painful procedures, such as putting a dislocated joint or broken bone back in position, to be performed in a way that is tolerable to the patient.

Your procedure is complete and the doctors and nurses looking after you now consider that the effects of your sedation have worn off to an extent that it is safe for you to go home in the company of a responsible adult.

Does sedation have any after effects?

You might still feel a little dizzy, confused, sleepy or clumsy. This is common and will usually wear off over the next few hours.

In some cases your judgement, memory and reflexes may be affected for a bit longer so please follow the advice below for the next 24 hours:

- Have a responsible adult with you at all times.
- Avoid alcoholic drinks.
- Do not make any important decisions, sign any important documents or make any major purchases.
- Do not undertake any activity that needs you to be alert and co-ordinated in the next 24 hours including:
    - Driving
    - Operating heavy machinery or power tools
    - Cooking
    - Climbing or working at a height
    - Working in (or on) water or off-shore
    - Riding a bike.

What else do I need to do?

If you need painkillers please use those provided by the Emergency Department or use simple over-the-counter medicines.

If you feel sick or vomit, stick to fluids until you can tolerate solid food but if this persists, contact your GP or return to the Emergency Department.

Will I need any follow up appointments?

You should be given details of any follow up appointments before you leave. Emergency Department staff should also ensure that they have your up to date contact details.

If you have any questions please contact the Emergency Department Reception on 01224 550506 and ask to speak to a member of medical staff.

Please show this information to the person who is looking after you.

This leaflet is also available in large print.

Other formats and languages can be supplied on request. Please call Quality Development on 01224 554149 for a copy. Ask for leaflet 1627.

Feedback from the public helped us to develop this leaflet. If you have any comments on how we can improve it, please call 01224 554149 to let us know.

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