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Information for Oral Sedation

The administration of an oral sedative (Ativan or Halcion) prior to your appointment will help you relax. This will decrease anxiety associated with your dental visit.

1. You should not eat heavily prior to the appointment. You may take the medication with a small amount of food such as juice, toast, etc. Taking it with too much food can make absorption into your system unpredictable.
2. Please arrive one hour prior to the scheduled time for your appointment.
3. We ask that you take the sedative medication when you are in the office. Once you have taken the medication, you are NOT to leave the office for any reason.
4. The onset time is approximately 30 minutes with the peak effect occurring after 1 hour. The effect can take up to 8 hours to wear off therefore you will be legally impaired once you have taken your sedative medication and will therefore not be able to drive yourself home.
5. This medication should not be used if: you are pregnant or breastfeeding, you have liver or kidney disease, you are hypersensitive to benzodiazepines, or you are taking certain medications. There may be unusual and dangerous reactions if you are currently taking illegal drugs.
6. Side effects can include light-headedness, dizziness, amnesia and nausea. For some people, oral sedation may not work as desired.
7. Please arrange to have a responsible adult pick you up and drive you home. You will not be able to take a taxi home by yourself. You will not be able to walk home.
8. Do not return back to work, drive a moving vehicle or operate hazardous machinery of any type on the day of your appointment. When at home, lie down with head slightly elevated. Someone should stay with you for the next several hours because of possible disorientation and possible injury from falling.