

SEDATION FOR PROCEDURES

Title: Sedation For Procedures	Owner: The Spinney Surgery
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INTRODUCTION

We are occasionally approached by patients and third party clinicians to prescribe sedating medication for anxiety during procedures (treatments or investigations) they will be having outside of the Spinney Surgery (e.g. sedating medication for a claustrophobic patient undergoing an MRI).

POLICY

Some patients can only submit to certain procedures under sedation and in this case it should be the clinician responsible for the procedure that prescribes it, provides appropriate monitoring during the procedure and makes sure adequate aftercare is in place before the patient goes home. This list of clinicians includes dentists, radiologists and consultants who arrange day care procedures, all of whom are able to prescribe where clinically appropriate and where the benefits are thought to outweigh the risks. This is also in line with the GMC's Good Medical Practice.

Therefore, we regret that henceforth we are not able to facilitate these requests on the grounds of patient safety. The Spinney Surgery has no direct knowledge, control or responsibility for the patient's care needs during these future procedures and no certain way of determining whether any medications prescribed by us for procedural anxiety will cause harm by either interfering with the procedure itself or any medications required during it. All sedative drugs have inherent risks including causing serious accidents and pneumonia.

We acknowledge that there may be occasion when you have previously been advised by a third party clinician or hospital to seek a prescription for this purpose. We regret that we will be unable to agree to such requests henceforth. This is now a practice policy. We will also be communicating this decision to local Hospital Trusts too.