

Care Following Dental Treatment under General Anaesthesia

The patient must be discharged to the care of a responsible adult for 24 hours.

- The patient may not drive a vehicle, operate hazardous machinery or make important decisions for 24 hours after sedation and/or after an anesthetic agent
- If extractions were performed, some bleeding is to be expected. Place cotton gauze firmly over the extraction area and bite down or hold in place for 15 – 30 minutes. This can also be accomplished with a tea bag. Repeat if necessary. Try keeping fingers and tongue away from the extracted areas
- Apply a dry ice pack to the outside of your jaw to reduce swelling and discomfort. Apply ice on for 20 minutes and then off for 20 minutes (and repeat) for the first 24 hours
- Avoid: rinsing the mouth for 24 hours, spitting excessively or drinking through a straw
- Drowsiness is common and rest is recommended for the remainder of the day. Monitor the patient very closely and keep him/her away from potential harm. Avoid strenuous exercise of physical activity for 2-3 days after the extraction
- Avoid consuming alcohol and other drugs with sedative properties for a minimum of 24 hours, or longer if drowsiness or dizziness persists
- If the patient wants to sleep, place them on their side with their chin up. Wake the patient up regularly and encourage them to have something to drink in order to prevent dehydration. On arriving home, it is best to give sips of clear liquids to prevent nausea. The first meal should be light and easily digestible
- Maintain a soft diet for a day or two or until the patient feels comfortable eating normal again
- Depending on the procedure performed, some discomfort can be expected; you may use Tylenol, Advil or Motrin as directed for the weight and age of the patient
- Following general anaesthesia, it is common to experience a sore throat or nose (including nose bleeds). These will resolve on their own.
- An intravenous catheter was placed and that area may be tender and bruised for a few days after surgery.

If you have any unusual problems or concerns call Clarence Street Dental at 519-756-8080 or Emergency Text Message Hotline: 226-215-0521

- After hours call the Dental Emergency line or go to the closest Emergency Department for:
 - Vomiting that lasts longer than 4 hours past your appointment
 - Fever persisting beyond 24 hours or greater than 101 F (38.3 degrees Celsius)
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Excessive pain not relieved by prescribed medication
 - Excessive bleeding