A Parent’s Guide to Pediatric Sedation

Department of Radiology

Name: ______________________________________________________
Appointment date/time: ________________________________
Location: ___________________________________________________

Your Child is scheduled for an exam in Radiology under anesthesia so your child can be asleep during the exam. If you have any questions, please call the nurse at 415-353-2614.

For your child’s safety, please follow these instructions.

• **If your child is younger than 6 months**, stop feeding formula or breast milk 4 hours before you arrive for the test. Allow only water for the next two hours, and nothing by mouth two hours before the exam.

• **If your child is older than 6 months**, stop feeding formula or breast milk six hours before you arrive for the test.

• Do not allow your child to eat after midnight, the night before the exam, except for water or clear apple juice (no pulp).

• Stop allowing water or apple juice two hours before you arrive for the exam. Do not put anything in your child’s mouth these two hours, including gum or candy.

• If your child needs to take medications, give the medications with water two hours prior to arrival.

• If your child is scheduled for CT SCAN of the abdomen, he/she may need to drink some oral contrast. Please call (415) 353-2573 for instructions.

• If your child has a stuffy nose, cough, or fever, please call to discuss this with the nurse at 415-353-2614.

Call Radiology Scheduling at least 48 hours before the exam to cancel this appointment. The number is (415) 353-2573. Thank you.
After the Scan

Your child may sleep for several hours after the procedure. Your child should wake up easily but may fall back asleep even up until the next morning. Children who have had sedation may act silly or drunk and should not walk without someone holding their hand. They should be protected from situations that require quick reflexes such as using stairs or riding a bicycle.

Your child may feel irritable and cry and he/she may complain of a headache.

Your child should be protected in the car, as he/she normally would be using either a safety seat or a seat belt.

Before you give your child solid food, first give him/her sips of liquids. If your child tolerates the first few sips without vomiting, you may allow him/her to eat a regular meal. If your child vomits, wait a few hours and try again. Your child may feel like vomiting for several hours after the procedure.

Observe the area on your child’s arm or leg where he/she received the medication injection. It may appear warm and tender. If it should become swollen and red in appearance, call your family physician.

What if I have questions after the procedure?

If you need copies of films to take with you to your child’s appointment, please inform the technologist responsible for your study. Once the films are processed, a radiologist or nuclear medicine doctor will review and discuss the results with your child’s doctor. Your child’s doctor will discuss the results with you.

If you are concerned about your child’s behavior (such as excessive sleepiness or vomiting) or if anything else concerns you, call 415-476-1000 and ask to speak with the anesthesiologist on call. In an emergency, call the Emergency Room at your local hospital.