

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Pre-Sedation in the Emergency Department

It has been decided to give you a sedative drug as part of your management in the Emergency Department, to make you more comfortable during a procedure.

Sedation will make you:

- Sleepy
- Less aware of what is happening for a short period of time.

It is **not** the same as a full anaesthetic and you should recover quickly.

The doctor giving the sedative drug will ask several questions to make sure it is safe to proceed, including when you last ate/drank. Please don't eat or drink anything whilst waiting.

The sedation will take place in our resuscitation room so that you can be closely monitored.

We will record your pulse, blood pressure and oxygen levels during the procedure, and give you some extra oxygen before, during and after the procedure. We will place a small tube into one of your veins using a needle (an intravenous line) to administer the sedative drug.

There will be a minimum of three members of staff present:

- A doctor to give the sedation
- Another health professional to perform the procedure
- A nurse to monitor you.

Sedation is considered to be a very safe procedure but there are a few complications you should be aware of. The following is a list of the more common and serious complications and how frequently they occur.

- Low blood pressure (1.5%) – we may need to give you fluids and medication to bring the blood pressure up.
- Low oxygen levels (4%) and temporarily stopping breathing (1.2%) – additional oxygen is given throughout, and we can assist with your breathing if needed.
- Vomiting (1.6%)
- Aspiration (0.12%) – if you vomit whilst sleepy, there is a very small chance the vomit can enter the lungs which can cause serious breathing problems. We ensure you haven't eaten for 6 hours before we sedate you, when possible.
- Intubation (0.16%) – very rarely we may need to put a tube into your airway to take over your breathing for you.

We will be happy to answer any questions you might have. If you agree to being sedated, we will ask you to sign a consent form giving us permission to proceed

① If you have further concerns about your condition, please contact your GP. If you are not sure what to do, call 111 or get help from 111 online:
<https://111.nhs.uk/> When to use NHS 111 online or call 111 - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.PatientExperienceTeam@nhs.net.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print, Easy Read or audio, please ask the staff who are looking after you.

Date this version published January 2025
Review Date November 2027
Document Reference PIL1509 v2.1

© 2025 York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. All Rights reserved.

www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk

