

Policy for Medical Procedures, Scans and Dental Appointments

Cairn Medical Practice does not prescribe sedatives such as Diazepam for medical procedures, scans or dental procedures. This is a practice policy which has been agreed and updated in line with current safety guidance. The policy is in place for a number of reasons which are outlined below:

- GPs are not regularly involved, skilled, trained or appraised in sedation skills. As a result, GPs are not trained to provide the correct level of sedation for procedures or scans. Providing too little sedation means you won't relax enough, and too much will make you drowsy or sleepy which could lead to the procedure being cancelled.
- After taking sedation, you will need to be closely monitored to keep you safe. This responsibility lies with the person prescribing the sedation, so they need to be present before, after and during the procedure.
- At times hospital tests can be delayed meaning the team performing the procedure will need to give the sedation at the right time.
- All hospital consultants, including those doing scans and procedures have access to the same prescribing abilities as GPs. If a patient needs sedation, they are just as well positioned to provide this prescription.
- Similarly for dental procedures, it is the responsibility of the dentist to prescribe any sedation they feel is needed.
- The Royal College of Radiologists' own guidelines on sedation for procedures/scans does not mention GP involvement and stresses the importance of experienced, appropriately trained staff administering and monitoring sedated patients.

We understand that hospital procedures and dental appointments may make you feel worried or anxious, but unfortunately, for the reasons outlined above, the responsibility to provide sedation does not lie with the GP.

Please contact the department who requested the medical procedure or scan or your dentist to discuss your options.