



**NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL**

*Pediatric Imaging Center at  
Northside/Alpharetta*

## Anesthesiology Care for Pediatric Imaging



### *Planning for Your Child's Sedation Appointment*

#### **Before the Appointment**

When sedation care is planned during imaging, you should expect a telephone call from the anesthesiologist one or two days prior to the appointment. First, there will be a review of your child's medical history, then an explanation of how your child will be cared for during the imaging study. You are encouraged to ask questions and discuss any aspect of the planned anesthesia care.

#### **Getting Ready for the Appointment**

As a general rule, your child should not have anything to eat or drink the morning of the sedation and imaging. If imaging is scheduled later in the morning or afternoon, you will be given instructions about medications and the restrictions on eating and drinking before imaging. Clothes should be loose fitting with sleeves that are easily pushed up above the elbow. You should consider

bringing an extra outfit in case it's needed. Encourage your child to go to the rest room sometime shortly before their appointment. If they don't have to, that's fine.

#### **Last Minute Preparations**

You will first check in at the registration desk, then you will bring your child to a ready room. There you will meet the anesthesiologist and take care of a few remaining paperwork details. During this time, your child will receive an oral premedication which begins to take effect in 20-25 minutes. Though children may appear normally awake, the premedication reduces (and usually eliminates) the chance of any unpleasant memory from this time on. The care team will confirm the plan for imaging and answer any remaining questions. As the premedication begins to take effect, things will start gently moving along.

#### **Anesthesia Care & Imaging**

Depending on the schedule and your child's response to oral sedation, the staff may proceed with placing the IV. If so, you will be present to reassure your child. Anesthetic spray and local anesthesia are used to make the IV placement as comfortable as possible. The IV is used to give sedation during imaging which quickly and gently renders your child relaxed, non-fearful and sleepy. When preparations are complete, the staff will carry your child to the imaging suite. Shortly after your child is away, you will return to the waiting room. During imaging, the anesthesiologist remains with your child to continuously monitor their vital signs and safety. Blood pressure, pulse, oxygen level and breathing are used to guide the amount and timing of sedation given by the anesthesiologist.

*Continued on reverse.*

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3300 Old Milton Parkway, Suite 150 Alpharetta, GA 30005 • (770) 667-4340 • [www.northside.com](http://www.northside.com)



Comfortable and relaxed waiting area.



Once an adequate level of sedation is achieved, the imaging can be performed efficiently and under optimum technical conditions. The staff will give you an update after the sedation is underway and the imaging is beginning.

### Initial Recovery from Sedation

When the imaging is complete, the sedation is stopped and your child will begin to arouse. When it is appropriate to do so, your child will leave the scanner suite and continue early recovery in the recovery area. The IV will likely remain in place when your child returns to the recovery area. Soon afterwards, you will return from the waiting room to be with your child as they continue to wake up.

You should expect your child to be a little fussy and even cry some. The more they wake up, the easier it will be to comfort and reassure them. While the effects of the sedation are

wearing off, a favorite toy, blanket or other familiar item can be helpful.

### Leaving the Center

When your child has adequately recovered, you will be able to leave the center. You will be given additional instructions and phone contact information.

### Continued Recovery at Home

We encourage you to stay with your child for the remainder of the day. Only a completely responsible adult with no other duties should watch your child for the remainder of the day.

### Call With Any Concern

Should you have any concern or questions after the procedure, please feel free to call. You are not bothering us by asking questions or giving us an update on your child's condition.

## THE KEY POINTS

- ✓ Expect a telephone call 1-2 days before from the anesthesiologist to discuss plans for your child's care
- ✓ Nothing to eat or drink the morning of imaging if scheduled before 10 a.m.
- ✓ Bring an extra outfit if an 'accident' is possible
- ✓ Keep the attitude upbeat and relaxed
- ✓ Anticipate that your child may be fussy initially when imaging is completed
- ✓ Plan to be with your child the remainder of the day
- ✓ Expect a telephone call later in the day to check on your child

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