



# Helping Hands

Jennifer K. Hargleroad, DDS, MS

2105 Bighorn Road, Unit 202

Fort Collins, CO 80525

(970) 493-2254

## **ORAL MODERATE SEDATION FOR DENTAL TREATMENT**

Oral moderate sedation is the administration of medications to help relax the patient to a level at which some dental procedures can be performed. It is not intended to have your child “sleep” through the appointment, although this may occur.

The goals of oral moderate sedation are:

1. To guard the patient’s safety and welfare
2. To minimize physical discomfort and pain
3. To control anxiety, minimize psychological trauma and maximize the potential for amnesia
4. To control behavior and/or movement so as to allow the safe completion of the procedure
5. To return the patient to a state in which safe discharge from medical supervision is possible

The alternatives to oral moderate sedation, which may include their own risks, include no treatment, temporary treatment, treatment with physical restraint or treatment under general anesthesia.

## **WHO MAY HAVE ORAL MODERATE SEDATION FOR DENTAL CARE?**

Sometimes we recommend that children have oral conscious sedation to help calm them to have dental work done. We follow national guidelines for choosing children who would best be treated under oral conscious sedation. The reason for it may include any of the following:

- Numerous cavities in the teeth or the cavities are in a pattern that makes it difficult for the child to handle routine dental care.
- A child who is mildly to moderately fearful of medical or dental treatment.
- No more than three areas of the mouth require treatment.

There are multiple physical criteria that the child must meet in order to pursue oral moderate sedation. Some of the factors that are taken into consideration include the following: