

Nitrous Oxide Sedation in ED during COVID-19



Western Health

COVID - 19

Be Safe -- Be Smart -- Be Kind

Providing procedural sedation in a manner that is safe for both patients and staff.

Remember: Procedures on screaming children are aerosol generatingⁱ.

More detail can be found in the [WH Nitrous Oxide & COVID-19 guideline](#).

Step 1: *Is this the right choice for this patient?*

- Consider other sedation options
- Confirm suitability with Senior
- Engage patient and family
- Educate regarding sedation & the procedure (use play, think of music etc.)

Step 2: *Preparation*

- Discuss with Nursing Team Leader (Children's ED) and/or Nurse in Charge (ANUM) & familiarise yourself with the [PPE requirements](#) (low risk AGP)
- Confirm:
 - Location – negative pressure if available, or closed-door-room
 - Team – minimise staff as much as possible
 - Any pending ambulance alerts (BAT calls)
- Confirm plan, including familiarising the child with the mask, role of parent (holding & distracting)
- Prepare room and equipment
 - For nitrous – include **viral filter**
 - For procedure
 - For backup plan – emesis, etc.



Step 3: *Procedure*

- Optimise mask seal & maintain a closed circuit - do not use a mouthpiece
- Monitor oximetry
- Keep emesis bag & suction available, use suction with care if required
- Complete procedure efficiently

Step 4: *Post-Procedure*

- Recovery in 100% FiO₂
- Turn off oxygen immediately when mask is removed
- Place circuit in yellow (infectious) bag
- Clean equipment as needed
- Doff PPE & exit room
- Allow child to rouse & prepare discharge documentation
- Discharge Home

ANZICS COVID-19 guideline V2 https://www.anzics.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ANZI_3367_Guidelines_V2.pdf