



The Wellcome Practice

Dartford West Health Centre, Tower Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 2HA

The Wellcome Practice will no longer be prescribing Diazepam/other sedatives prior to dental procedures/radiological investigations. There are a number of reasons why prescribing this is not recommended for the safety of Patients.

We are unable to prescribe sedatives, such as diazepam, for any procedure or scan being undertaken outside of our practice, this includes MRI scans and dental procedures.

If you feel you need sedation in such circumstances, please speak to the team undertaking the procedure or scan, as they are responsible for providing this if needed.

Sedatives are medicines which make patients sleepy and relaxed. There are several reasons why healthcare practitioners at The Wellcome Practice do not prescribe these medicines for procedures outside of our practice:

- GPs are not trained to provide the correct level of sedation for a procedure / scan. Providing too little sedation won't help you, providing too much sedation can make you too sleepy, which could lead to the procedure being cancelled. Too much sedation can dangerously affect your breathing. After taking a sedative for a procedure or scan, you will need to be closely monitored to keep you safe.
- Although diazepam makes most people who take it sleepy, in some rare situations it can have an opposite effect and make people aggressive or agitated.
- Scans and hospital procedures are often delayed, therefore the team performing the procedure or scan should provide the sedation, to ensure you become sleepy and relaxed at the right time.

