

## **Dental Procedures, Scans Protocol**

### **Wooler Health does not prescribe sedatives like diazepam for any procedure or scan being undertaken outside of our practice, this includes MRI scans and dental procedures**

This policy decision has been made by the GP Partners and is adhered to by all prescribers working in the practice. The reasons for this can be found below:

- GPs are not involved, trained or appraised in sedation skills and are not able to provide the correct level of sedation for a procedure or a scan.
- People respond differently to sedation, you may not feel any benefit or you could become too sleepy and your procedure may need to be cancelled. Too much sedation can have a negative affect on your breathing and even lead to death. Patients need to be monitored closely at the time and for a period afterwards.
- Although medication like diazepam makes a lot of people sleepy, it can have the opposite effect and make people more aggressive or agitated.
- Benzodiazepines (e.g. diazepam) may cause drowsiness, impair concentration and impair decision making which may impair a person's ability to drive home afterwards
- According to the prescribing guidelines doctors follow, (known as the BNF), benzodiazepines like diazepam are not recommended for use in phobias. Your doctor would be taking a significant legal risk by prescribing against these guidelines. They are only licensed for short term use during a crisis in generalised anxiety and can be prescribed by your dentist or consultant.
- Diazepam stays in your system for quite a while. If your job requires you to submit to random drug testing, you may fail this having taken diazepam.

**Fear of dental procedures and medical scans should be discussed with your dentist or consultant who may prescribe for you if they feel it is appropriate.**