



**Children's Hospital Boston**

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**HARVARD SCHOOL  
OF DENTAL MEDICINE**

Division of Pediatric Dentistry

Department of Oral and Developmental Biology

## **Nitrous Oxide/ Oxygen (Laughing Gas) Analgesia for the Anxious Child**

### **What is Nitrous oxide/ Oxygen Analgesia?**

- Nitrous oxide is very safe and has been used for over 100 years in medicine and dentistry.
- Nitrous oxide will not cause your child to sleep, rather s/he will remain awake and responsive during the entire visit. This is **NOT** deep sedation or general anesthesia which we only perform in the Operating Room.
- During this procedure, we administer more oxygen than children breathe in normal room air. This ensures a wide margin of safety.
- Nitrous oxide/oxygen when inhaled through a mask is helpful in reducing anxiety and increasing comfort.

### **Postoperative Instructions:**

The effects of the gas (relaxation and reduced pain sensation) will last only a few minutes after the nitrous oxide is turned off and 100% oxygen is given. Your child will be able to resume normal activities after the procedure, except for those directed by us due to the nature of the dental treatment.