Midazolam in General Dental Practice

Midazolam is a benzodiazepine and a Schedule 3 controlled drug. It is used as a sedative and as an emergency drug to treat epileptic patients. It is one of the drugs recommended for use in the Emergency Drug Kit in dental practices.

Emergency use to treat Epileptic patients

Medication other than oxygen should only be given if seizures are prolonged (convulsive movements lasting 5 minutes or longer) or recur in quick succession. In this situation an ambulance should be summoned urgently.

Buccal Midazolam can be administered and is currently available in packs of 4 pre-filled syringes with the following strengths:

For adults 10mg.

For children the dose can be simplified as follows:
- child 1-5 years 5mg
- child 5-10 years 7.5mg
- above 10 years 10mg.

A 2.5mg dose is available for use on children up to the age of one year but this age of patient is unlikely to present as a patient in the dental surgery.

Midazolam and emergency use

Q Which type of buccal Midazolam are available for use in dental practices?

A Buccolam is the only licenced product. Epistasis is not licenced.
Q  As the shelf-life of benzodiazepines is relatively short, can a dental practice purchase the packs of 4 syringes in each of the 3 strengths and split the packs with other practices to share the cost.

A  This scenario i.e. between separate dental practices, is considered as wholesale supply and a wholesale dealer’s licence will be required. To get such a licence would mean completing a lengthy process with significant expense.

Midazolam and sedation

Some dentists and dental practices routinely use Midazolam for conscious sedation for more prolonged or intricate treatments and for anxious patients.

Q  Can dentists within a practice share a central supply of midazolam within their practice or should each dentist order and take responsibility for their own supplies of midazolam?

A  Dentists within the same practice can share the practice stock of medicine because they are all within the same legal entity.

Q  How should locum dentists obtain supplies of midazolam they need during their daily practice?

A  A locum dentist employed by the dental practice (i.e. they are the same legal entity) can use the same practice stock as other dentists in the practice.

The above answers in relation to Midazolam use in General Dental Practice have been provided by a Senior Regulatory Advisor from MHRA (the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency)