Sedation with Propofol

What is Propofol?
Propofol is a medication given to provide sedation during procedures. Propofol is given through an IV to decrease discomfort and awareness during medical procedures.

When is Propofol used for Sedation?
Propofol is routinely used for heart catheterizations, endoscopy procedures, minor outpatient surgery and radiology procedures.

Why should Propofol be used rather than an alternate medication?
The standard moderate sedation agents may be less effective for some patients. Propofol provides better sedation for patients with any history of anxiety disorders, mental illness, or abuse. Patients that take narcotics, anti-anxiety medications, anti-depressants, medications for mental illnesses, or consume alcohol on a regular basis will benefit from the use of Propofol for sedation.

Do patients feel pain or remember the procedure?
Most patients will have minimal awareness of their surroundings and are usually asleep. Patients generally do not remember what took place during the procedure.

How are patients cared for while receiving Propofol for sedation?
Propofol is only administered by highly trained medical professionals. All patients are continuously monitored by specially trained registered nurses, physicians, nurse anesthetists, or anesthesiologists for changes in their heart rate, blood pressure, breathing, oxygen level and alertness during the procedure and the recovery period.

Is Propofol safe to receive?
While there are inherent risks to all forms of sedation, sedatives administered by properly trained physicians and registered nurses, is safe and standard practice. Patients are screened for risk factors prior to scheduling and monitored continuously throughout their procedure.

How long does it take to wake up from the sedation with Propofol?
Patients can wake up quickly after the procedure, however judgment may be affected. Operating a vehicle or dangerous equipment should be avoided for a minimum of eight (8) hours after Propofol has been administered. Patients should not make any legal decisions until the following day after receiving medication for moderate sedation.

Are there side effects from Propofol sedation?
Side effects and complications are rare, but can occur during or after any procedure. Some risks of sedation include depressed reflexes, decreased breathing, alterations in heart rate, and decreased blood pressure. Highly trained registered nurses and physicians are immediately available to respond to an unexpected reaction or complication.

Who should NOT receive Propofol?
Patients with allergies to eggs, eggs products, soy bean or soy products cannot have Propofol.

What about patients with Sulfa Allergies?
Patients with sulfa allergies or allergies to medications in the Sulfonamide drug class can still have Propofol. Propofol contains Sodium Metabisulfite, a sulfite, which is a preservative. Most persons with sulfa allergies are allergic to the sulfa antibiotics. Propofol does not contain sulfa and therefore is safe for patients with allergies to the sulfa antibiotics.