

## PA.049 - Dental Anesthesia

Maryland Physicians Care considers **Dental Anesthesia** medically necessary for the following indications:

1. The patient is a child seven years of age or younger, or is developmentally disabled (physically, intellectually or other medically compromising conditions):

For whom a successful result cannot be expected for treatment under local anesthesia and for whom a superior result can be expected for treatment under general anesthesia.

OR

2. At any age, requests will be reviewed for medical necessity on a case by case basis for any of the following conditions:
  - a. Severe infection at the oral injection site
  - b. Member has documented medical conditions that preclude the use of local anesthesia
  - c. Member who is unmanageable using local anesthesia due to any of the following documented conditions:
    - i. Developmentally disabled (as defined in Indication #1 above)
    - ii. Diagnosed mental health condition
    - iii. Physical conditions that limit functionality
  - d. When there are multiple extractions in more than one quadrant of the mouth and treatment is simple or surgical extractions with either:
    - i. Two or more quadrants having at least two teeth extracted per quadrant
    - ii. Three or more quadrants having at least one tooth extracted per quadrant
  - e. Members for whom local anesthesia is ineffective (such as due to acute infection, anatomic variations or allergy)
  - f. Members who have sustained extensive oral-facial and/or dental trauma, for which treatment under local anesthesia would be ineffective or compromised
  - g. Members with bony impacted wisdom teeth.

### Requirements for Dental Anesthesia Coverage:

1. The Anesthesiologist or Dentist uses his/her discretion with regard to member safety when evaluating members for type of anesthesia and location of service.

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2. Anesthesia must be provided by a credentialed anesthesiologist or properly trained and permitted dentist in accordance with applicable state or federal laws/regulations.

### Limitations:

The following services are not covered:

- Services performed for cosmetic or aesthetic reason.
- General anesthesia associated with removal of asymptomatic, non-pathologic, third molars.
- Services encompassing orthognathic or prognathic surgical procedures and other occlusal defects.
- Services submitted by more than one provider or facility, including ASCs (Ambulatory Surgical Centers) that are the same services performed on the same dates for the same patient.
- Local anesthesia when billed for separately by a dentist.

### Background

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry states that dental treatment under general anesthesia provides a safe approach for children and persons with special health care needs who cannot accept treatment in a conventional office setting. It includes a clinician-controlled state of patient unconsciousness accompanied by a loss of protective reflexes, including the ability to maintain an airway independently and respond purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal command. The use of anesthesia sometimes is necessary to provide quality dental care for the child. Depending on the patient and other factors, it can be done in a hospital or an ambulatory setting, including the dental office.

### Codes:

#### HCPSC codes covered if selection criteria are met (If Appropriate):

D9248	Non-Intravenous conscious sedation (except for Medicare)
00170	Anesthesia for intraoral procedures, including biopsy, not otherwise specified

### References

1. American Dental Association: Guidelines-For The Use Of Sedation And General Anesthesia By Dentists, Issued 2016.  
[http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/anesthesia\\_use\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/anesthesia_use_guidelines.pdf)
2. American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). Council of Clinical Affairs. Ad-Hoc Committee on Sedation and Anesthesia: Policy on the Use of Deep

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3. American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). Health Care Provider Brochure: General Anesthesia. Chicago, IL: AAPD; ©2011.  
<http://www.aapd.org/publications/brochures/>
4. American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). Council of Clinical Affairs. Dental Care Committee. Policy on Third-Party Reimbursement of Medical Fees Related to Sedation/General Anesthesia for Delivery of Oral Health Services. Adopted 1989. Latest Revision 2016. Reference Manual: V. 384/ No, 6 16/17.  
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6. American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Cote JC, Wilson S and Work Group on Sedation. Guidelines for monitoring and management of pediatric patients during and after sedation for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures: an update. Pediatrics 2006 Dec; 118(6):2587-2602. DOI: 10.1542/peds.2006-2780.  
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/118/6/2587.full.pdf+html>
7. American College of Surgeons: Statement on Patient Safety Principles for Office-based Surgery Utilizing Moderate Sedation/Analgesia/Deep Sedation/Analgesia of General Anesthesia.. [ST-46]. Bull Am Coll Surg. 2004 Apr; 89(4): 32-34. Published September 1, 2019. <https://bulletin.facs.org/2019/09/revised-statement-on-patient-safety-principles-for-office-based-surgery-utilizing-moderate-sedation-analgesia/>
8. American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA): Statement on Qualifications of Anesthesia Providers in the Office Based Setting. Approved: Oct 13, 1999. Last Amended: Oct. 21, 2009; and reaffirmed on October 15, 2014.  
<http://www.asahq.org/~media/sites/asahq/files/public/resources/standards-guidelines/statement-on-qualifications-of-anesthesia-providers-in-the-office-based-setting.pdf>
9. American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA): Guidelines for Office-Based Anesthesia. Approved: Oct 13, 1999. Last Affirmed: Oct. 21, 2009; and reaffirmed on October 23, 2019.  
<http://www.asahq.org/~media/sites/asahq/files/public/resources/standards-guidelines/guidelines-for-office-based-anesthesia.pdf>

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10. Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 16, Section 140 – Dental Services Exclusion. Last modified: 11/06/2014 <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c16.pdf>
11. Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, Section 150 - Dental Services. Last modified: 07/12/2019 <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c15.pdf>
12. Medicare Dental Coverage. Last modified: 11/19/2013. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareDentalCoverage/>

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