



## Medical Coverage Policy

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# Anesthesia and Facility Services for Dental Treatment

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## Related Coverage Resources

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### INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

The following Coverage Policy applies to health benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Certain Cigna Companies and/or lines of business only provide utilization review services to clients and do not make coverage determinations. References to standard benefit plan language and coverage determinations do not apply to those clients. Coverage Policies are intended to provide guidance in interpreting certain standard benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Please note, the terms of a customer's particular benefit plan document [Group Service Agreement, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, Summary Plan Description (SPD) or similar plan document] may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which these Coverage Policies are based. For example, a customer's benefit plan document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a Coverage Policy. In the event of a conflict, a customer's benefit plan document always supersedes the information in the Coverage Policies. In the absence of a controlling federal or state coverage mandate, benefits are ultimately determined by the terms of the applicable benefit plan document. Coverage determinations in each specific instance require consideration of 1) the terms of the applicable benefit plan document in effect on the date of service; 2) any applicable laws/regulations; 3) any relevant collateral source materials including Coverage Policies and; 4) the specific facts of the particular situation. Each coverage request should be reviewed on its own merits. Medical directors are expected to exercise clinical judgment where appropriate and have discretion in making individual coverage determinations. Where coverage for care or services does not depend on specific circumstances, reimbursement will only be provided if a requested service(s) is submitted in accordance with the relevant criteria outlined in the applicable Coverage Policy, including covered diagnosis and/or procedure code(s). Reimbursement is not allowed for services when billed for conditions or diagnoses that are not covered under this Coverage Policy (see "Coding Information" below). When billing, providers

*must use the most appropriate codes as of the effective date of the submission. Claims submitted for services that are not accompanied by covered code(s) under the applicable Coverage Policy will be denied as not covered. Coverage Policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Coverage Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment guidelines. In certain markets, delegated vendor guidelines may be used to support medical necessity and other coverage determinations.*

## Overview

This Coverage Policy addresses the use of monitored anesthesia care (MAC)/general anesthesia and associated facility charges in conjunction with dental surgery or procedures performed by a dentist, oral surgeon, or oral maxillofacial surgeon. This includes services in a properly-equipped and staffed office, a hospital or outpatient surgery center.

## Coverage Policy

**Facility and/or monitored anesthesia care (MAC)/general anesthesia services provided in conjunction with dental treatment may be impacted by benefit plan language and governed by state mandates. Please refer to the applicable benefit plan document to determine benefit availability and the terms and conditions of coverage.**

**MAC/general anesthesia and associated facility charges in conjunction with dental surgery or procedures performed by a dentist, oral surgeon or oral maxillofacial surgeon normally excluded under the medical plan are considered medically necessary when there is an appropriately trained and licensed professional to both administer and monitor MAC/general anesthesia in EITHER of the following locations:**

- a properly-equipped and staffed office
- a hospital or outpatient surgery center

**for ANY of the following:**

- individual for whom local anesthesia is not appropriate or indicated (i.e., due to confirmed toxicity or allergy to local anesthesia; medical condition comorbidity; or presence of acute infection at injection site for local anesthesia)
- individual age seven years or younger
- individual who is severely psychologically impaired or developmentally disabled
- individual with American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Physical Status Classification\* of 3 or greater
- individual who has one or more significant medical comorbidities which:
  - preclude the use of conscious sedation OR
  - for which careful monitoring is required during and immediately following the planned procedure
- individuals in whom conscious sedation would be inadequate or contraindicated for any of the following procedures:
  - removal of two or more impacted third molars
  - removal or surgical exposure of one impacted maxillary canine
  - surgical removal of two or more teeth involving more than one quadrant

- routine removal of six or more teeth
- full arch alveoplasty
- periodontal flap surgery involving more than one quadrant
- radical excision of tooth-related lesion greater than 1.25 cm or ½ inch
- tooth-related radical resection or ostectomy with or without grafting
- placement or removal of two or more dental implants
- tooth transplantation or removal from maxillary sinus
- extraction with bulbous root and/or unusual difficulty or complications noted
- removal of exostosis involving two areas
- removal of torus mandibularis involving two areas

\*See the General Background section of this policy for definitions of American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Physical Status Classification.

**Anesthesia and/or associated facility charges for dental and oral surgery services which are of a cosmetic nature are considered not medically necessary.**

## Health Equity Considerations

Health equity is the highest level of health for all people; health inequity is the avoidable difference in health status or distribution of health resources due to the social conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age.

Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environment that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks. Examples include safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods; racism, discrimination and violence; education, job opportunities and income; access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities; access to clean air and water; and language and literacy skills.

## General Background

For routine dental procedures performed on generally healthy individuals, care can typically be safely provided in a dental or oral surgery office, under local anesthesia. Alternatively, for individuals who have unique challenges due to their age, behavior, developmental disabilities, medical status, intellectual limitations, or special needs, deep sedation or general anesthesia provided in a more intensive setting may be required to receive comprehensive dental care. For children with special health care needs in particular, factors such as living in low-income households or rural areas, or failure to receive routine medical care may increase the risk of unmet dental care needs (Chi, 2018). Other barriers, such as language and psychosocial, structural, and cultural considerations may also impede access to oral care (Sanders, et al., 2022). For children with special health care needs, and children generally, dental treatment under general anesthesia has been shown to improve oral health-related quality of life (Mathew, et al., 2022; Jankauskiene and Narbutaite, 2010). Preventive and definitive dental treatment is essential for all individuals, as untreated oral conditions such as caries and periodontal diseases can result in loss of function, infection, and pain (American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry [AAPD], 2023a).

Sedation and anesthesia procedures performed on dental patients in nontraditional settings have increased over time. These services may be provided in an office, outpatient facility, or hospital. This care should be provided by qualified and appropriately trained individuals and in facilities accredited in accordance with state regulations and professional society guidelines (AAPD, 2023b; American Society of Anesthesiologists [ASA], 2019a; ASA, 2023a; American Dental Association [ADA], 2016a). There are many clinical indications which may warrant the use of monitored

anesthesia care (MAC)/general anesthesia in an appropriately equipped office, outpatient facility, or hospital. These may include spasticity or movement disorders (e.g., cerebral palsy); severe developmental disability or cognitive impairment; cardiac conditions; dementia; or a confirmed toxicity or allergy to local anesthesia.

A carefully obtained and reviewed preoperative medical history, physical examination, and laboratory tests (as necessary), designed to identify high-risk patients with potential medical contraindications to office-based anesthesia, are recommended to prevent anesthetic emergencies by applying strict inclusion criteria. Office-based facilities must ensure timely access to the healthcare system for complications that may occur during, or days after, the surgery (AAPD, 2023b; ASA, 2019a; Coté and Wilson, 2019; Perrott, et al., 2003).

It is recommended that facilities that administer general anesthesia be equipped with anesthesia emergency drugs, appropriate resuscitation equipment, and properly trained staff to quickly and skillfully respond to anesthetic medical emergencies (ASA, 2023a). Outpatient surgery studies have generally reported a low incidence of surgery-related morbidity with proper patient selection. However, studies of adverse events following outpatient surgery suffer from limitations associated with selection bias, incomplete reporting and limited follow-up. For example, in a study from Florida, one of the few states that requires the central reporting of adverse events, researchers observed a 10-fold increase of adverse events with surgeries performed in doctors' offices when compared to ambulatory surgical centers (Vila, et al., 2004). Factors known to be associated with adverse events include patient age (with high risk among the very young and very old), the length of the procedure, health status, the type of procedure, provider qualifications, and facility accreditation (Fleisher, et al., 2004).

As part of the comprehensive preprocedure assessment, the Mallampati score may be used to assist in evaluating the airway and identifying individuals for whom intubation may be difficult. It is a visual examination of the tonsillar pillars, uvula, and palate, and is typically performed while the person is in a sitting position with the mouth open and the tongue protruded. The evaluation results in a classification (or "score"), with classes III and IV being associated with difficulty during intubation. The classifications are as follows:

- Class I: The entire tonsillar pillars, uvula, hard and soft palates are visible
- Class II: Partial uvula and soft palate are visible
- Class III: Only the soft palate is visible
- Class IV: No structures beyond the tongue are visible

Due to limited studies and a decreased ability to cooperate with the assessment, the Mallampati score is used with caution in children. Further, the accuracy of the test may vary by ethnic group, sex, and pregnancy status. The score is not recommended as a stand-alone predictor of a potentially difficult airway (Berkow, 2024; Cravero and Roback, 2023; Lee, et al., 2006).

### **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

There are numerous pharmaceutical agents and devices approved for use in anesthesia which are subject to FDA regulation.

In 2017, the agency added a new warning statement to anesthetic and sedation medications to indicate that exposure to these drugs for lengthy periods of time or over multiple surgeries/procedures may negatively affect brain development in children age three or younger. The agency stated that while medically necessary procedures should not be delayed, consideration should be given to delaying potentially elective surgery in young children, when appropriate.

### **Literature Review**

Gandhi et al. (2023) completed a retrospective review of adverse events in pediatric patients who underwent deep sedation-supported dental procedures in an outpatient pediatric dental clinic. The clinic primarily served low-income, traditionally underserved patients, many with special needs or medical comorbidities. A total of 175 patients met the inclusion criteria within the study period (2017-2019). The sedation regimen in all cases consisted of intramuscular ketamine followed by intravenous propofol, administered and monitored by a pediatric anesthesiologist. Nineteen adverse events in 15 cases (8.6%) were determined to be related to the sedation procedure. The events were classified as being related to sedation quality (47%); airway and breathing (37%); or allergy (16%). An analysis did not show significant associations by race or ethnicity; age; medical condition; or number of procedures. The authors concluded that an adverse event (minor or major) occurs in one of every 12 deep sedation cases in pediatric dental patients carried out in locations other than an operating room. Larger studies and root cause analyses are needed to guide improved safety and reliability.

Perrott et al. (2003) conducted a prospective cohort study to provide an overview of current anesthetic practices of oral and maxillofacial surgeons in the office-based ambulatory setting. The patients received local anesthesia, conscious sedation, or deep sedation/general anesthesia. The predictor variables were categorized as demographic, anesthetic technique, staffing, adverse events, and patient-oriented outcomes. The sample comprised 34,191 patients, 71.9% of whom received deep sedation/general anesthesia. A total of 14,912 patient satisfaction forms were completed by patients who had deep sedation/general anesthesia. The overall complication rate was 1.3 per 100 cases, and the complications were minor and self-limiting. The lowest complication rate (0.4%) was associated with the use of local anesthesia, and the highest complication rate was with deep sedation/general anesthesia (1.5%). The conscious sedation complication rate was (0.9%) ( $p < 0.001$ ). Two patients who received deep sedation/general anesthesia experienced complications requiring hospitalization. The patients receiving deep sedation/general anesthesia were overwhelmingly satisfied, with 95.8% reporting extreme or moderate satisfaction.

Coté et al. (2000) developed a database consisting of descriptions of adverse sedation events in pediatric patients, derived from the Food and Drug Administration's adverse drug event reporting system, from the U.S. Pharmacopeia, and from a survey of pediatric specialists. A total of 95 cases were reviewed for factors that may have contributed to adverse sedation events, ranging from death to no harm. Thirty-two of the 95 cases involved sedation/anesthesia for dental procedures, most in a nonhospital-based venue. Twenty-nine cases resulted in death or permanent neurological injury. Three cases resulted in prolonged hospitalization without injury or no harm. The authors stated this may be a result of the fact that general dentists have little pediatric training, particularly in drugs used for sedation/analgesia. The training and skills of the dental specialists was not clear from the case reports. Inadequate resuscitation was often associated with a nonhospital-based setting. In all venues, inadequate and inconsistent physiologic monitoring contributed to poor outcomes. Other issues included: inadequate presedation medical evaluation, lack of an independent observer, medication errors, and inadequate recovery procedures. The authors recommended that uniform, specialty-independent guidelines for monitoring children during and after sedation are needed. Appropriate equipment and medications for resuscitation should be immediately available, regardless of where the child is sedated. Also, all healthcare providers who sedate children should have advanced airway assessment and management training with resuscitation skills to safely rescue patients if an adverse sedation event occurs.

### **Professional Societies/Organizations**

**American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA):** The ASA defines levels of sedation/analgesia as follows (ASA, 2019c):

- Minimal sedation (i.e., anxiolysis) is a drug-induced state during which patients respond normally to verbal commands. Although cognitive function and coordination may be impaired, airway reflexes, and ventilatory and cardiovascular functions are unaffected.
- Moderate sedation/analgesia (i.e., conscious sedation) is a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully\* to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.
- Deep sedation/analgesia is a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients cannot be easily aroused but respond purposefully\* following repeated or painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function may be impaired. Patients may require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation may be inadequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.
- General anesthesia is a drug-induced loss of consciousness during which patients are not arousable, even by painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function is often impaired. Patients often require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and positive pressure ventilation may be required because of depressed spontaneous ventilation, drug-induced depression, or neuromuscular function. Cardiovascular function may be impaired.

\*Note: Reflex withdrawal from a painful stimulus is not considered a purposeful response.

The ASA Physical Status Classification System has been in use for over 60 years and was designed to assess and communicate an individual's pre-anesthesia medical comorbidities. When used with other factors (e.g. nature of the surgery, frailty, level of deconditioning), the system can be helpful in predicting perioperative risks (ASA, 2020):

- ASA I: normal healthy patient
- ASA II: patient with mild systemic disease
- ASA III: patient with severe systemic disease
- ASA IV: patient with severe systemic disease that is a constant threat to life
- ASA V: moribund patient who is not expected to survive without the operation
- ASA VI: a declared brain-dead patient whose organs are being removed for donor purposes

A higher ASA physical status is associated with increased risk of complications, unexpected hospital admission after ambulatory surgery, and mortality due to patient-specific and surgery-specific factors (Falk and Fleisher, 2024).

Per the ASA, monitored anesthesia care (MAC) is a specific anesthesia service performed by a qualified anesthesia provider, for a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure. Indications for MAC may include the nature of the procedure, the patient's clinical condition and/or the need for deeper levels of analgesia and sedation than can be provided by moderate sedation, including potential conversion to a general or regional anesthetic. MAC includes all aspects of anesthesia care: a preprocedure assessment and optimization, intraprocedure care, and postprocedure management that is inherently provided by a qualified anesthesia provider as part of the bundled specific service. During MAC, the anesthesiologist provides or medically directs a number of specific services, including but not limited to (ASA, 2023b):

- preprocedural assessment and management of patient comorbidity and periprocedural risk
- diagnosis and treatment of problems that occur during the procedure
- support of vital functions, including hemodynamic stability, airway management and appropriate management of the procedure-induced pathologic changes as they affect the patient's coexisting morbidities

- administration of sedatives, analgesics, hypnotics, anesthetic agents or other medications
- psychological support and physical comfort
- provision of other medical services as needed to complete the procedure safely
- postoperative medical and pain management

MAC may include varying levels of sedation, analgesia and anxiolysis as needed. The qualified anesthesiologist provider of monitored anesthesia care must be prepared to manage all levels of sedation, and respond to the pathophysiology of the procedure and patient positioning (ASA, 2023b).

Per the ASA, monitored anesthesia care can be distinguished from moderate sedation/analgesia (conscious sedation) in several ways. "Proceduralists providing moderate sedation may have their attention divided between their primary focus, the procedure, and secondary focus, patient sedation. Moderate Sedation is not expected to induce depths of sedation that would impair the patient's respiratory or cardiovascular functions or ability to maintain airway integrity. A provider's ability to intervene to rescue a patient's airway from any sedation-induced compromise is a prerequisite to the qualifications to provide MAC. These components of MAC are unique aspects of an anesthesia service that are not part of Moderate Sedation. In addition, MAC includes an array of post-procedure responsibilities beyond the expectations of practitioners providing Moderate Sedation, including assuring a return to baseline consciousness, relief of pain, management of adverse physiological responses or side effects from medications administered during the procedure, as well as the diagnosis and treatment of co-existing medical problems. MAC allows for the safe administration of a depth of sedation in excess of that provided during Moderate Sedation. The ability to adjust the sedation level from full consciousness to general anesthesia during a procedure provides maximal flexibility in matching sedation level to a patient's needs and procedural requirements. In situations where the procedure is more invasive, or when the patient is especially fragile, optimizing sedation level while maintaining cardiopulmonary function is necessary to achieve ideal procedural conditions" (ASA, 2023b).

The ASA statement on qualifications of anesthesia providers in the office-based setting recommends that where anesthesiologist participation is not practicable, nonphysician anesthesia providers must, at a minimum, be supervised by the operating practitioner or other licensed physician. The supervising operating practitioner, or other licensed physician, should be specifically trained in sedation, anesthesia, and rescue techniques appropriate to the type of sedation or anesthesia being provided, and to the office-based surgery being performed. The ASA recommends that these guidelines be read in conjunction with the ASA's statement on office-based anesthesia (ASA, 2019a).

**American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD):** In 2019, the AAPD and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published an updated guideline for the monitoring and management of pediatric patients before, during and after sedation for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. This updated statement unifies the guidelines for sedation used by medical and dental practitioners, adds clarification regarding monitoring modalities, provides new information from the medical and dental literature, and suggests methods for further improvement in safety and outcomes. With this guideline, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the ASA, the AAP, and the AAPD use similar language to define sedation categories and the expected physiologic responses (Coté and Wilson, 2019). The AAPD and AAP recommend the following:

- Candidates for minimal, moderate, or deep sedation are patients who are in ASA Classes I and II. Children in ASA Classes III and IV, children with special needs, and those with anatomic airway abnormalities or extreme tonsillar hypertrophy present issues that require additional and individual consideration, particularly for moderate and deep sedation.

Practitioners are encouraged to consult with appropriate subspecialists and/or an anesthesiologist for patients at increased risk of experiencing adverse sedation events because of their underlying medical/surgical conditions.

- The pediatric patient should be accompanied to and from the treatment facility by a responsible person (e.g., parent or legal guardian). It is recommended that two or more adults accompany children who are in car safety seats if transportation to and from a treatment facility is provided by one of the adults.
- The practitioner who uses sedation must have immediate available facilities, personnel, and equipment to manage emergency and rescue situations. The most common serious complications of sedation involve compromise of the airway or depressed respirations resulting in airway obstruction, hypoventilation, hypoxemia, and apnea. Hypotension and cardiopulmonary arrest may occur, usually from inadequate recognition and treatment of respiratory compromise. Rare complications may include seizures, vomiting, and allergic reactions.
- A protocol for access to back-up emergency services shall be identified, with an outline of the procedures necessary for immediate use. For nonhospital facilities, a protocol for ready access to ambulance service and immediate activation of the emergency medical system for life-threatening complications must be developed and maintained. The availability of emergency medical services does not replace the practitioner's responsibility to provide initial rescue in managing life-threatening complications.
- An emergency cart or kit must be immediately accessible and contain equipment to provide the necessary age- and size-appropriate drugs and equipment to resuscitate a nonbreathing and unconscious child. The contents of the kit must allow for the provision of continuous life support while the patient is being transported to a medical facility or to another area within a medical facility. All equipment and drugs must be checked and maintained on a scheduled basis. Monitoring devices must have a safety and function check on a regular basis as required by local or state regulation.
- The time and condition of the child at discharge from the treatment area or facility should be documented; this should include documentation that the child's level of consciousness and oxygen saturation on room air have returned to a state that is safe for discharge as recognized by the following criteria:
  - cardiovascular function and airway patency are satisfactory and stable
  - patient is easily arousable, and protective reflexes are intact
  - patient can talk (if age-appropriate)
  - patient can sit up unaided (if age-appropriate)
  - for a very young or handicapped child incapable of the usually expected responses, the presedation level of responsiveness or a level as close as possible to the normal level for that child should be achieved
  - state of hydration is adequate

The AAPD best practice document regarding the use of anesthesia providers in the administration of in-office deep sedation/general anesthesia to the pediatric patient recommends the guidance be used to assist the dental provider who elects to use an anesthesia care provider for the administration of deep sedation/general anesthesia for pediatric dental patients in a dental office or other facility outside of an accredited hospital or ambulatory surgical center. The document addresses personnel, facilities, documentation, and quality assurance mechanisms required to provide responsible and optimal care to the pediatric dental patient. Deep sedation/general



anesthesia techniques in the dental office require the presence of the licensed anesthesia provider who is independent of performing or assisting with the dental procedure, and the operating dentist. Both providers must be present throughout the procedure. Additionally, both providers must, at a minimum, have appropriate training and current certification in patient rescue, including drug administration and pediatric advanced life support (PALS) or advanced pediatric life support (APLS) (AAPD, 2023a; 2023b).

In its best practice for behavior guidance for pediatric dental patients, the AAPD outlines approaches and techniques used to establish communication, alleviate patient anxiety, foster a positive dental attitude, and encourage cooperation to allow for safe oral health care. Behavior guidance techniques range from establishing or maintaining communication to stopping unwanted or unsafe behaviors. While most patients are safely and effectively managed with basic practices, some children are unable to cooperate with care. More advanced behavior guidance techniques, up to and including the use of sedation or general anesthesia, may be considered after discussion of the risks, benefits, and alternatives. The document states that, "General anesthesia is indicated for patients: who cannot cooperate due to a lack of psychological or emotional maturity and/or mental, physical, or medical disability; for whom local anesthesia is ineffective because of acute infection, anatomic variations, or allergy; who are extremely uncooperative, fearful, or anxious; who are precommunicative or non-communicative child or adolescent; requiring significant surgical procedures that can be combined with dental procedures to reduce the number of anesthetic exposures; for whom the use of general anesthesia may protect the developing psyche and/or reduce medical risk; and requiring immediate, comprehensive oral/dental care (e.g., due to dental trauma, severe infection/cellulitis, acute pain)". Conversely, the use of general anesthesia would be contraindicated for healthy, cooperative patients with minimal dental needs; a very young patient with minimal dental needs that can be addressed with deferred treatment or therapeutic interventions; convenience of the patient or practitioner; and/or predisposing medical conditions which would make general anesthesia inadvisable (AAPD, 2023c, 2023d).

The AAPD best practice document on the management of dental patients with special health care needs also addresses behavior guidance: "Behavior guidance of the patient with SHCN [special health care needs] can be challenging. Communication may be limited due to anxiety, intellectual disability, or impaired hearing or vision. Because of dental anxiety, a lack of understanding of dental care, oral aversion, or fatigue from multiple medical visits and procedures, children with SHCN may exhibit resistant behaviors. These behaviors can interfere with the safe delivery of dental treatment. With the parent's/caregiver's assistance, most patients with physical and intellectual disabilities can receive oral health care in the dental office. Protective stabilization can be helpful for some patients (e.g., those with aggressive, uncontrolled, or impulsive behaviors; when traditional behavior guidance techniques are not adequate) for safe delivery of care and with consent. When non-pharmacologic behavior guidance techniques are ineffective, the practitioner may recommend sedation or general anesthesia to allow completion of comprehensive treatment in a safe and efficient manner" (AAPD, 2023e, 2023f).

**American Dental Association (ADA):** The 2016 ADA guideline for the use of sedation and general anesthesia by dentists recommends that, to administer deep sedation or general anesthesia, the dentist must have completed:

- an advanced education program accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation that affords comprehensive and appropriate training necessary to administer and manage deep sedation or general anesthesia, commensurate with the deep sedation or general anesthesia clinical guidelines
- a current certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers and either current certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) or completion of an

appropriate dental sedation/anesthesia emergency management course on the same re-certification cycle that is required for ACLS

The guideline states that administration of deep sedation or general anesthesia by another qualified dentist or independently practicing qualified anesthesia healthcare provider requires the operating dentist and his/her clinical staff to maintain current certification in BLS Course for the Healthcare Provider.

The ADA guideline recommends that patients must be evaluated prior to the start of any sedative/anesthetic procedure. Healthy or stable patients (i.e., ASA I or II) may require only a review of their medical history, including medication use. Patients who are medically unstable, or who have a significant health disability (i.e., ASA III or IV), may require consultation with their primary physician or consulting medical specialist. The guidelines state that a minimum of three individuals must be present: a qualified dentist to administer and monitor the deep sedation/general anesthesia; two individuals who are competent in basic life support, or its equivalent; another individual trained in patient monitoring, if the same individual administering deep sedation/general anesthesia is performing the dental procedure. The guidelines recommend that suitable equipment must be on the premises to provide advanced airway maintenance and advanced life support along with in-line oxygen analyzers for intubated patients. Further recommendations address strict monitoring, documentation, recovery, and discharge criteria (ADA, 2016a).

**American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS):** In the 2023 Parameters of Care: AAOMS Clinical Practice Guidelines for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery section on Patient Assessment, the authors state, "In all cases of ASA class II or greater patients, consideration should be given to consultation with a physician for medical clarification of the patient's physiologic condition, and obtainment of a written medical clearance to assist the OMS in determining the appropriateness for outpatient OMS procedures that may include sedation or general anesthesia". The authors state that, "The practitioner's selection of a particular technique for controlling pain and anxiety during a specific procedure has to be individually determined for each patient, considering the risks and benefits for each case".

The section addressing Anesthesia in Outpatient Facilities discusses four subpopulations of individuals (i.e., children, geriatric patients, pregnant women, and individuals with obesity) who are at higher risk of anesthesia complications due to anatomical and physiological variations. Additionally, numerous health conditions are identified that may be impacted by anesthesia. The authors identify specific factors affecting risk for deep sedation/general anesthesia including:

- presence of a general factor affecting risk, including:
  - coexisting systemic and psychiatric disease
  - age of individual
  - current or past use of illicit drugs, marijuana, alcohol, or tobacco
  - conditions that promote airway obstruction
  - conditions that impede ventilation and/or intubation of the hypopneic/apneic patient
  - familial history of problems related to anesthesia
  - diagnosed obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) or class II or class III body mass index (BMI)
  - current infection
  - pregnancy
- loss of the ability to respond purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal command and/or loss of protective cardiopulmonary reflexes and the ability to maintain an airway independently
- factors compromising airway patency

- factors compromising cardiovascular function
- noncompliance with or conditions affecting nothing by mouth requirements
- psychological aversion to intravenous or intramuscular injections and/or anesthetic mask
- presence of severe facial abscess or cellulitis
- presence of facial anomalies and anatomical variations that might prevent or impede adequate airway management
- presence of a recent or active upper respiratory infection
- regulatory and/or third-party decisions concerning access to care, indicated therapy, drugs, devices, and/or materials
- special needs patients

**European Society of Anaesthesiology and European Board of Anaesthesiology:** In 2018, the European Society of Anaesthesiology and European Board of Anaesthesiology published guidelines for procedural sedation and analgesia in adults (Hinkelbein, et al., 2018). The joint taskforce recommended that individuals who have the following conditions be evaluated and managed by an anesthesiology professional, when undergoing procedural sedation and analgesia:

- severe cardiovascular disease (including moderate to severe hypotension (systolic blood pressure [SBP] < 90 mmHg) or major cardiac dysfunction)
- documented or suspected obstructive sleep apnea
- morbid obesity (body mass index [BMI] > 40 kg m<sup>2</sup>)
- chronic liver disease (model for end-stage liver disease score ≥ 10)
- age > 70 years
- American Society of Anesthesiologists physical status III to IV

## Medicare Coverage Determinations

	Contractor	Determination Name/Number	Revision Effective Date
NCD	National	No Determination found	
LCD		No Determination found	

Note: Please review the current Medicare Policy for the most up-to-date information.  
(NCD = National Coverage Determination; LCD = Local Coverage Determination)

## Coding Information

### Notes:

1. This list of codes may not be all-inclusive since the American Medical Association (AMA) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.
2. Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.

**The scope of this policy is limited to medical plan coverage of the facility and/or monitored anesthesia care (MAC)/general anesthesia services provided in conjunction with dental treatment, and not the dental or oral surgery services.**

**Considered Medically Necessary when used to report facility charges and/or monitored anesthesia care/general anesthesia services for dental procedures performed outpatient, when criteria in the applicable policy statements listed above are met:**

<b>CPT®** Codes</b>	<b>Description</b>
00170	Anesthesia for intraoral procedures, including biopsy; not otherwise specified
01999	Unlisted anesthesia procedure(s)
41899	Unlisted procedure, dentoalveolar structures

<b>HCPCS Codes</b>	<b>Description</b>
G0330	Facility services for dental rehabilitation procedure(s) performed on a patient who requires monitored anesthesia (e.g., general, intravenous sedation (monitored anesthesia care) and use of an operating room

**The professional dental procedure codes listed are for reference only and do not imply coverage of dental procedures.**

<b>CDT®** Codes</b>	<b>Description</b>
D7140	Extraction, erupted tooth or exposed root (elevation and/or forceps removal)
D7230	Removal of impacted tooth partially bony
D7240	Removal of impacted tooth completely bony
D7241	Removal of impacted tooth completely bony, with unusual surgical complications
D7250	Removal of residual tooth roots (cutting procedure)
D7272	Tooth transplantation (includes reimplantation from one site to another and splinting and/or stabilization)
D7310	Alveoloplasty in conjunction with extractions - four or more teeth or tooth spaces, per quadrant
D7311	Alveoloplasty in conjunction with extractions - one to three teeth or tooth spaces, per quadrant
D7320	Alveoloplasty not in conjunction with extractions - four or more teeth or tooth spaces, per quadrant
D7321	Alveoloplasty not in conjunction with extractions - one to three teeth or tooth spaces, per quadrant
D7471	Removal of lateral exostosis (maxilla or mandible)
D7473	Removal of torus mandibularis
D9222	Deep sedation/general anesthesia - first 15 minutes
D9223	Deep sedation/general anesthesia - each subsequent 15 minute increment

**\*Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) ©2023 American Medical Association: Chicago, IL.**

**\*\*Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature (CDT®) ©2023 American Dental Association: Chicago, IL.**

## References

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## Revision Details

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
Annual review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No clinical policy statement changes.</li> </ul>	8/15/2024

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