

<b>Medical Benefit</b>		<b>Effective Date:</b> 04/01/20	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 01/21
<b>Preauthorization</b>	Yes	<b>Review Dates:</b> 01/20	

***Preauthorization is required.***

*The following protocol contains medical necessity criteria that apply for this service. The criteria are also applicable to services provided in the local Medicare Advantage operating area for those members, unless separate Medicare Advantage criteria are indicated. If the criteria are not met, reimbursement will be denied and the patient cannot be billed. Please note that payment for covered services is subject to eligibility and the limitations noted in the patient's contract at the time the services are rendered.*

### DESCRIPTION

Most dental procedures can be performed with local anesthesia. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Routine dental care (exam, x-rays, dental prophylaxis, etc.)
- Extractions
- Restorative procedures (fillings, crown & bridges, fixed & removable prosthetics, etc.)
- Endodontic treatment (root canals, root resections, apical surgeries, etc.)
- Periodontal treatment (scaling, root planning, bone & soft tissue grafting, etc.)
- Orthodontic treatment
- Prosthodontic treatment (dentures, bridge work, etc.)
- Dental implant procedures

Some patients may require minimal sedation to deal with anxiety. This can be given orally prior to the needed procedure or care which can be performed in the dental office.

However, some patients may require monitored anesthesia care (MAC) or general anesthesia. This protocol addresses the delivery of such services in an ambulatory or hospital surgery center. The medical necessity of this level of care depends on the extent of treatment needed, age of the patient, and the presence of special needs or behavioral conditions which makes the delivery of such care using local anesthesia of high risk or difficulty.

### POLICY

MAC or General anesthesia may be considered **medically necessary** in the following situations:

- Children age six (6) years or less.

For patients age seven (7) and up:

- A total of four (4) or more teeth to be extracted; OR
- Procedures performed in two or more quadrants of the mouth at the same service; OR

- Patients with severe anxiety for whom office-based treatment is felt to be impractical and/or who have failed a prior attempt at office-based procedures; OR
- Special needs patients (intellectual disabilities, physical impairments, psychiatric conditions, etc.) who are unable to cooperate for extensive procedures performed under local anesthesia; OR
- Patients with severe unstable systemic diseases (American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Class III or IV, which includes, but not limited to, poorly controlled diabetes mellitus, hypertension, COPD, morbid obesity (BMI >40), cardiac ischemia or markedly reduced cardiac function or valve dysfunction), for whom the risk of extensive procedures performed under local anesthesia is considered to be unacceptable.

In all such cases (except children age six (6) or less), the treating dentist must provide documentation that the extent of the proposed treatment cannot be performed under local anesthesia.

In all other circumstances, the use of MAC or general anesthesia for dental procedures is considered to be **not medically necessary**.

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Services that are the subject of a clinical trial do not meet our Technology Assessment and Medically Necessary Services Protocol criteria and are considered investigational. *For explanation of experimental and investigational, please refer to the Technology Assessment and Medically Necessary Services Protocol.*

It is expected that only appropriate and medically necessary services will be rendered. We reserve the right to conduct prepayment and postpayment reviews to assess the medical appropriateness of the above-referenced procedures. **Some of this protocol may not pertain to the patients you provide care to, as it may relate to products that are not available in your geographic area.**

## REFERENCES

We are not responsible for the continuing viability of web site addresses that may be listed in any references below.

1. American Dental Association. Guidelines for the use of sedation and general Anesthesia by Dentists. Oct 2016. (Accessed on 11/5/19 at [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. Lim, M, Gelsoma, L. The use of general anesthesia to facilitate dental treatment in adult populations with special needs. J Dent Anesth Pain Med 2017;17(2):91-103.
3. Ashley PF; Williams CE; Moles DR; Parry J. Sedation versus general anaesthesia for provision of dental treatment in under 18 year olds. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 11:CD006334, 2012 Nov 14.
4. Chanpong B, Haas DA, Locker D. Need and demand for sedation or general anesthesia in dentistry: a national survey of the Canadian population. Anesth Prog 2005;52:3-11.
5. Giovannitti JA Jr. Anesthesia for off-floor dental and oral surgery. [Review] Current Opinion in Anesthesiology. 29(4):519-25, 2016 Aug.