

# Statement of Medical Necessity for Outpatient Pediatric Dental Procedures Requiring General Anesthesia



**Patient Name**

**Date of Birth**

Performance of the dental procedures requires outpatient pediatric general anesthesia services for patient safety and protection of the developing psyche.

- Previously attempted sedation and have failed.
- The child is unable to cooperate during the extensive dental procedures.
- The child has a developmental or emotional condition.
- This patient has a complex dental condition, which is likely to result in a medical condition if left untreated.

**COMMENTS / DESCRIPTION:**

Please circle all that apply:

<b>Description</b>	<b>ICD-10 Diagnosis Code</b>
Caries	K02.9
Mottled Teeth	K00.3
Diseases of Pulp Tissue	K04.0
Traumatic Tooth Loss	K08.419
Disorder of Eruption	K00.9
Abscess	K04.7
ADHD	F90.9
Autism	F84.0
Developmental Delay	F81.9
Cerebral Palsy	G80.9
Epilepsy/Seizures	G40.901
Downs Syndrome	Q90.9
Acute Reaction to Stress	F43.0
Asthma	J45.20
Failed Moderate Sedation	T88.52XA

Signature of child's dentist / physician

Phone number

Print name of child's dentist / physician

Date

# **American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Policy on medically-necessary care. The Reference Manual of Pediatric Dentistry. Chicago, Ill.: American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry; 2022:23-8.**

## **Purpose**

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recognizes that dental care is medically-necessary for the purpose of preventing and eliminating orofacial disease, infection, and pain, restoring the form and function of the dentition, and correcting facial disfiguration or dysfunction.

## **Background**

The AAPD defines medically-necessary care (MNC) as “the reasonable and essential diagnostic, preventive, and treatment services (including supplies, appliances, and devices) and follow-up care as determined by qualified health care providers in treating any condition, disease, injury, or congenital or developmental malformation to promote optimal health, growth, and development. MNC includes all supportive health care services that, in the judgment of the attending dentist, are necessary for the provision of optimal quality therapeutic and preventive oral care. These services include, but are not limited to, sedation, general anesthesia, and utilization of surgical facilities.

The patient’s age, dental needs, disabilities, medical conditions, and/or acute situational anxiety may preclude the patient’s being treated safely in a traditional outpatient setting. For some infants, children, adolescents, and persons with special health care needs, treatment under sedation or general anesthesia in a hospital, outpatient facility, or dental office or clinic represents the only appropriate method to deliver necessary oral health care. Failure by insurance companies to cover general anesthesia costs, hospital fees, and/ or sedation costs can expose the patient to multiple ineffective, potentially unsafe, and/or psychologically traumatic in-office experiences.

## **Policy statement**

Dental care is medically necessary to prevent and eliminate orofacial disease, infection, and pain, to restore the form and function of the dentition, and to correct facial disfiguration or dysfunction.

Furthermore, the AAPD encourages third-party payors to:

5. ensure that all children have access to the full range of oral health delivery systems. If sedation or general anesthesia and related facility fees are payable benefits of a health care plan, these same benefits shall apply for the delivery of oral health services.

Please Note: The entire contents of the *Reference Manual of Pediatric Dentistry* can be obtained through American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry at: <https://www.aapd.org/research/oral-health-policies--recommendations/policy-on-medically-necessary-care/>