



Kaiser Foundation Health Plan - Hawaii

Dental Anesthesia

Anesthesia services and associated facility services for dental work are covered on a case-by-case basis when provided at Kaiser Permanente (KP) or a KP contracted facility and are based on clinical status or a qualifying medical condition.

Clinical Review

Guideline

Coverage for services related to anesthesia for nondiscretionary dental procedures if one of the following is met, and has 22 or more points from Appendix A:

- Age: under 84 months old (under age 7)
- Requirements for complex dental work on non-anterior teeth (located towards the back of the mouth, include premolars and molars)

Examples of complex dental conditions include the following:

- Multiple non-cosmetic restorations on the non-anterior teeth
 - Multiple extractions of teeth other than primary incisors
 - Multiple endodontic procedures on posterior teeth (pulpotomies, dental procedure used to save a severely decayed tooth)
 - Stainless steel crowns and/or multiple restorations on primary molar teeth
- Unable to cooperate in a normal chair-side setting
 - Members with severe medical co-morbidities of a developmental disability which places them at serious risk for peri-operative (the period of time surrounding the surgery) complications with surgery done in an outpatient setting.

Examples of severe medical co-morbidities include the following:

- Autism
- Downs Syndrome
- Cerebral Palsy
- Cardiopulmonary conditions
- Hemophilia

Dental procedure codes

HCPCS/CPT codes D0120-D9999 (codes used to track and bill medical, surgical, and diagnostic services)

Limitations

Kaiser Health Plan will not cover hospitalization for members receiving discretionary dental procedures (dental treatments that are not immediately necessary or essential), such as tooth extraction prior to elective orthodontia (done for cosmetic or esthetic reasons).

Dental anesthesia for all Oahu members is available at Kaiser Moanalua Medical Center; referral and authorization is required for dental anesthesia on Oahu outside of the Kaiser network.

Appendix A: Dental Therapy under General Anesthesia

- **Total points needed to justify treatment under general anesthesia = 22 or more**

Age of Client at time of examination	Points
Less than four years of age	8
Four and five years of age	6
Six and seven years of age	4
Eight years of age and older	2

Treatment Requirements (Cariou and/or Abscessed Teeth)	Points
1-2 teeth or one sextant	3
3-4 teeth or 2-3 sextants	6
5-8 teeth or 4 sextants	9
9 or more teeth or 5-6 sextants	12

Behavior of Client **	Points
Definitely negative - unable to complete exam, client unable to cooperate due to lack of physical or emotional maturity, and/or disability	10
Somewhat negative-defiant; reluctant to accept treatment; disobeys instruction; reaches to grab or deflect operator's hand, refusal to take radiographs	4
Other behaviors such as moderate levels of fear, nervousness, and cautious acceptance of treatment should be considered as normal responses and are not indications for treatment under general anesthesia	0
** Requires that narrative fully describing circumstances be present in the client's chart	

Additional Factors **	Points
Presence of oral/perioral pathology (other than caries), anomaly, or trauma requiring surgical intervention **	15
Failed conscious sedation **	15
Medically compromising of handicapping condition **	15
** Requires that narrative fully describing circumstances be present in the client's chart	

Approval	Dates
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Chief Approval: Michael Hamilton, MD Chief, Pediatrics	10/2022, 12/2023, 12/2024
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Jae Lim, MD, Chief, ENT	10/2022, 12/2023, 12/2024
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References

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Sedation and General Anesthesia Safety