



## Anesthesia or Sedation for Dental Procedures

LOB(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicare  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid	State(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Idaho <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montana <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oregon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oregon <input type="checkbox"/> Washington
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### Enterprise Policy

*Clinical Guidelines are written when necessary to provide guidance to providers and members in order to outline and clarify coverage criteria in accordance with the terms of the Member's policy. This Clinical Guideline only applies to PacificSource Health Plans, PacificSource Community Health Plans, and PacificSource Community Solutions in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Because of the changing nature of medicine, this list is subject to revision and update without notice. This document is designed for informational purposes only and is not an authorization or contract. Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and subject to the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Member's policy. Member policies differ in benefits and to the extent a conflict exists between the Clinical Guideline and the Member's policy, the Member's policy language shall control. Clinical Guidelines do not constitute medical advice nor guarantee coverage.*

### Background

Pediatric patients and occasionally adults can present special circumstances that make routine in-office dental treatment difficult or impossible. In these cases, it may be necessary to use controlled anesthesia in order to perform necessary dental procedures safely. Facility charges (free standing or hospital based) licensed medical or dental providers, anesthesiologists, and assistant physicians may be coverable under the member's medical benefit if criteria is met.

This policy pertains to outpatient surgical procedures and settings. The term "hospitalization" as used in this policy shall mean admission to an ambulatory surgical facility whenever possible and appropriate, or to a hospital facility if special clinical circumstances warrant. Additional medical review will determine if a hospital stay is coverable.

### Criteria

#### Commercial

##### Prior authorization is required

- I. **Pediatric Medical/Dental Benefit:** This benefit is limited to one time per year (calendar or member benefit plan year). PacificSource considers pediatric medical/dental benefit medically necessary when **ALL** of the following criteria is met:
  - A. Patient is under the age of seven (7), has a behavioral health diagnosis **OR** has a developmental disorder preventing the child from cooperating with dental treatment
  - B. Extensive treatment required (e.g., extraction, root or pulp procedures or deep drilling) during one visit due to **ONE** of the following:

1. Severe infection
  2. tooth decay (cavities)
  3. gum (periodontal) disease
  4. root infection abscesses
- C. Clinical documentation of failed treatment attempts utilizing behavioral interventions and/or conscious sedation.

### **Exclusions**

Anesthesia secondary to the patient's apprehension or for convenience of dentist/family is not covered. See member benefit book for contract language exclusions.

## **II. Hospitalization for Dental Procedures Benefit:**

PacificSource considers hospitalization for dental procedures medically necessary when **ALL** of the criteria is met:

- A. The member has a medical or physical condition that requires monitoring during dental procedures (e.g., coronary disease, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart failure, serious blood/bleeding disorder, unstable diabetes/hypertension, or developmental disability/autism).

### **Exclusions**

Hospitalization secondary to the patient's apprehension or convenience is not covered. See member benefit book for contract language exclusions.

## **Medicaid**

PacificSource Community Solutions (PCS) follows Oregon Health Plan (OHP) per Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 410-123-1000 to 1640 for coverage of Anesthesia or Sedation for Dental Procedures.

PCS covers facility and anesthesia charges for children and adults with eligible plans as part of Hospital Dentistry cases, in accordance with OAR 410-123-1490 and in coordination with Dental Care Organizations (DCOs). Prior Authorization (PA) is required according to the following process:

- A. The dental provider submits a first-level Hospital Dentistry PA request to the appropriate DCO.
- B. The DCO reviews the request and any and all clinical documentation to ensure appropriateness and that the request meets the required criteria in OAR 410-123-1490.
- C. The DCO then issues to the dental provider an approval or denial notice/letter.
- D. The dental provider or facility submits the anesthesia PA, DCO approval notice/letter, and facility PA to PCS for final review.

PCS reviews, makes determination, and notifies the provider. If the PA request from the provider or facility does not include the DCO approval notice/letter, PCS will deny the PA request. Eligible DCOs do not require a letter.

## Medicare

PacificSource Medicare follows Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 15, §150 for coverage of Anesthesia of Sedation for dental procedures.

## References

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Fiorillo L. (2019). Conscious Sedation in Dentistry. *Medicina (Kaunas, Lithuania)*, 55(12), 778. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31817931/>

Salerno, C., Cirio, S., Zambon, G., D'Avola, V., Parcianello, R. G., Maspero, C., Campus, G., & Cagetti, M. G. (2023). Conscious Sedation for Dental Treatments in Subjects with Intellectual Disability: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 20(3), 1779. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20031779> <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/3/1779>

## Appendix

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### Policy Number:

**Effective:** 7/1/2020

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**Policy type:** Enterprise

**Author(s):**

**Depts:** Health Services

**Applicable regulation(s):** Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 15, §150

**Commercial Ops:** 11/2023

**Government Ops:** 12/2023