



KIDS DENTAL CENTER, LLC

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Outpatient Hospital Dental Treatment Using General Anesthesia

Thank you for bringing your child to the Kids Dental Center for a dental exam. This letter is a follow-up to our conversation, and summarizes my findings and recommendations. As we previously discussed in the office, due to your child's age, behavior, pre-cognitive inability to safely tolerate dental treatment in the office, and the degree of dental treatment required, the most appropriate and safest modality of completing medically necessary dental treatment will require an outpatient hospital setting with the adjunct use of general anesthesia. It is important that you fully understand the risks and benefits of all treatment options, including the potential risks and benefits of delaying treatment. If your child has dental cavities or other dental "pathology", delaying or not completing dental treatment may result in progression of dental pathology; i.e. the existing cavities may become larger, requiring more extensive dental treatment. The potential pain, infection, and space loss may negatively affect your child's daily life activities, including eating, sleeping, playing, participating in school, and general health. The following information is a general review of hospital dental treatment utilizing general anesthesia, and anticipated / unanticipated dental needs and treatment. Please contact me directly with all questions prior to the day of treatment.

Your child will need to complete a "pre-op" physical exam with the pediatrician within 1-2 weeks prior to the outpatient dental treatment. You will be responsible for scheduling and going to this appointment. My office will communicate with the pediatrician's office to obtain the necessary hospital forms verifying that your child is healthy enough to undergo general anesthesia for outpatient dental treatment. Most commonly, these dental appointments are performed on Fridays mornings at Howard County General Hospital. The hospital requires that your child arrive at least 1 hour prior to your procedure time, and also requires that your child not eat or drink ANYTHING at least 8 hours prior to the appointment time. **It is very important that your child not eat after these times.** Not abiding by this policy may place your child at health risk and may result in the hospital cancelling the procedure.

Once you arrive at the hospital and check in with the receptionist, aside from speaking with myself, you will speak with the anesthesiologist. This is the time to ask questions, and bring up concerns regarding your child's medical history, allergies, current medications, and family history relating to general anesthesia. The anesthesiologist may ask that your child drink a small amount of a sedative medication at this time, to help your child relax. Next, your child will be brought to the dental treatment room and asked to breath into a fruit-scented gas mask. Usually one parent is allowed to accompany the child during this time. The gas flowing through the mask will cause your child to fall asleep. After your child has fallen asleep, the parent is escorted back to the waiting room. There are no needles or painful experiences before your child is asleep. Your child will be in the dental treatment room for approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours. After dental treatment is complete, your child will be transferred to the recovery room, and a nurse will bring you into the recovery room as soon as your child is waking up. During this time, I will review all dental treatment completed, and the nurses will provide you with written post-operative instructions. When your child meets all discharge criteria, you and your child will be allowed to go home, commonly this occurs after 1-2 hours in the recovery room. All people respond differently to general anesthesia and dental treatment. Some people will regain full activity level and diet that same day, while others will take the better part of an entire week. On average, 2-3 days is a more common recovery time, with most children back in school on Monday morning.

Occasionally, unanticipated dental treatment needs arise. This may include the need for additional x-rays, fillings, stainless steel crowns, tooth nerve therapy, tooth extractions, space maintainers, incisions with minor surgical procedures, or stitches. Rather than interrupt the flow of treatment and the length of time that your child is under general anesthesia, I will perform the medically necessary dental treatment in good faith without consulting the parents. Parents need to be prepared for the potential of this unanticipated dental treatment.

Your dental and medical insurance will receive claims from both the hospital as well as from the Kids Dental Center for the completed outpatient hospital dental treatment:

1. Dental Insurance

Dental fees are covered the same whether performed in the hospital or the office. While the Kids Dental Center will submit a pre-treatment estimate of dental fees to your dental insurance company, **it is important that you contact your dental insurance company to completely understand your dental insurance benefits/ coverages, including possible out-of-pocket expenses, and annual benefit maximums / limitations prior to completing dental treatment. This is your responsibility.**

2. Medical Insurance

Hospital facility fees and anesthesia fees are usually covered through medical insurance outpatient benefits, and may require pre-authorization / pre-certification, including letters of medical necessity from the dental office. While Kids Dental Center will make a reasonable effort to contact your medical insurance company, **it is important that you contact your medical insurance company to completely understand coverage of hospital fees and anesthesia fees for outpatient dental treatment using general anesthesia prior to completing dental treatment. This is your responsibility.**

Considering the time it takes to determine insurance pre-authorization / pre-certification, my hospital schedule, and your availability, dental treatment may be scheduled quickly, or may take a number of weeks to months. I appreciate your confidence in the Kids Dental Center and look forward to providing dental care for your child. Please contact me with all questions and concerns at 410.465.6000.