



GENERAL ANESTHESIA

Pediatric dentists are specialty trained to take children to a surgical center to be treated under general anesthesia. These services are reserved for children unable to accomplish treatment in the traditional clinical setting due to age, extensive decay/treatment needs, acute situational anxiety, prohibitive behavior/inability to cooperate with no expectation that the behavior will improve soon.

PRE-OPERATIVE PATIENT REQUIREMENTS

Safety is our top priority and we take additional steps to ensure the process is safe for your child. The following items must take place prior to the appointment to ensure your child's safety.

1. Your child will need to be seen by their pediatrician/primary care provider for a **“History and Physical”** (H&P) appointment. This appointment helps to rule out heart and breathing problems, other underlying conditions and family histories that may be inappropriate for treatment under general anesthesia. The appointment should be *scheduled 2-3 weeks prior* to the surgery date. **Please email our Surgery Care Coordinator, Sam,** (samantam@dfckids.com) once this appointment has been scheduled. Please include date of appointment, clinic and doctor name.
2. We will also have your child follow NPO instructions. NPO is a medical abbreviation for no food or drink for **8 hours prior** to surgery. This prevents aspiration risk which is where the majority of the risk lies for healthy patients undergoing general anesthesia. **THIS IS IMPERATIVE FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY.** If your child violates NPO, please let us know so we can reschedule your child's appointment.

WHAT TO EXPECT

We perform our treatment at one of two surgical centers in St. Cloud, St. Cloud Surgical Center and Centracare Health Plaza. We base where we go primarily on availability. If you have a preference on location, let our surgery coordinator know so we can schedule accordingly.

The day of the surgery, you will be checked in by nursing staff who will help you and your child prepare for the procedure and review all necessary information. Both the pediatric dentist and the anesthesiologist/CRNA will speak with you prior to your child's procedure to review anticipated treatment and answer any last-minute questions. You will be allowed to walk your child to the surgical suite and hold their hands while they breathe some of the anesthesia through a mask. Once your child drifts off to sleep, you will be escorted to the waiting room.

Procedures take anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour and a half (depending on treatment needs). Any necessary radiographs (X-rays) will be taken and all necessary treatment will be provided. Treatment plans are made to approximate the most appropriate treatment but are subject to change and may change greatly depending on our ability to get an appropriate exam or radiographs in the clinic prior to the procedure. Upon completion of treatment and while your child begins to wake up from anesthesia, the pediatric dentist will speak with you regarding the care provided and review all post operative care instructions.

PAYMENT

In order to secure your appointment for surgery, we ask that you pay **half of your estimated dental portion** at the time of scheduling. The remaining portion will be collected one week prior to the surgery.

Your *dental insurance* will have the same coverage for treatment while under general anesthesia as it would if you were in our clinic. However, it is your responsibility to know your dental insurance benefits and be aware that all plans will vary and can change.

If you carry **IN-NETWORK INSURANCE** we will do our best to help obtain an estimate prior to scheduling. If we are unable to get an estimation of benefits prior to scheduling, we ask for 30% of the total estimated dental portion be paid prior to the surgery date. Half of the 30% will be due at time of scheduling and the remaining balance will be due one week prior.

If your child is covered under a **STATE ASSISTED PROGRAM**, and at any time leading up to the surgery appointment loses edibility, you will be responsible for any charges incurred.

The surgery centers will coordinate all *medical insurance* benefits. If you have any questions regarding your medical insurance coverage for general anesthesia, please reach out to the location in which your child's surgery will take place.

St. Cloud Surgical Center
(p) 320-251-8385

CentraCare- Plaza Surgery Center
(p) 320-229-4997

Approved payment options:

- Cash/Check
- Credit Card- MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover
- Sunbit (pay over time, *ask the front desk for more information)
- Care Credit (pay over time, *apply online at CareCredit.com)

QUESTIONS?

If at any time you have questions regarding your child's surgery, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Surgery Care Coordinator, Sam, via phone or email.

Sam Moulzolf

Surgery Care Coordinator
(p) 320-257-3380
SamanthaM@dfckids.com