



About Children's Dental Surgery

What is the purpose of a dental surgery center?

A dental surgery center offers a hospital-like setting for doctors to perform sleep dentistry in a safe, controlled environment. These centers are staffed by clinical professionals who have expertise in sleep dentistry, such as board-certified anesthesiologists, pediatric dentists, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses.

What is sleep dentistry?

Sleep dentistry is the performance of dental procedures while the patient is under general anesthesia. Sleep dentistry is not recommended for all patients. However when necessary, it can ensure patients obtain the dental and restorative treatment they require in a calm, comfortable, and safe environment.

Which children should have sleep dentistry?

There are a number of factors that help our dentists determine if a child would benefit from being treated at a surgery center, including age, behavior, and the amount of work required. The three main types of patients are:

- Young children who need significant dental work. For example, if a child is unable to sit still to have x-rays taken in the office, they will struggle to remain relaxed and cooperative for a dental procedure that can take 30 minutes or more. A child who is unable to remain still will put themselves at risk for accidental injury during procedures.
- Children who are afraid and experience anxiety. These patients will also struggle to sit still in a dental chair, and their fear of the dentist will likely increase if procedures are performed while they are awake.
- Patients who are physically and/or mentally handicapped. These children may also be unable to remain still, or have anxiety.

What are the benefits of sleep dentistry?

Sleep dentistry can help alleviate fear, anxiety, and stress in young patients so that they no longer fear going to the dentist. It can also improve safety, as it's important for patients to sit very still during dental procedures in order for dentists to safely operate instruments and mechanical equipment. If children are unable to remain still and calm, then sleep dentistry may be the best option. The safety of children is always our priority—our anesthesiologists are state- and board-certified. We also have registered nurses present in the room at all times while patients are in surgery.

What services are offered under sleep dentistry?

Sleep dentistry services include, but are not limited to, filling cavities, placing crowns, and extracting teeth.

Where is Children's Dental Surgery located?

We perform sleep dentistry at three state-of-the-art, AAAHC-accredited, ambulatory surgery centers. They are:

- Children's Dental Surgery of Lancaster
- Children's Dental Surgery of Malvern
- Children's Dental Surgery of Lehigh Valley

What insurances are accepted for sleep dentistry?

We accept most major dental plans, as well as Medicaid and Pennsylvania Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Insurance plans vary in their coverage of services and procedures. Some plans cover the majority of procedure costs, while others cover as little as 30%. Our friendly staff is here to help guide parents in understanding their costs, and can provide instruction on how to best work with their insurance companies to ensure payment for the treatment required.

The most common dental insurances we accept include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Aetna Better Health Medicaid and CHIP
- Aetna HMO & PPO
- AmeriHealth Caritas
- Cigna
- PA Access
- Keystone First
- Geisinger Commercial, Medicaid, and CHIP
- United Healthcare Commercial, CHIP, and Medicaid
- UPMC Medicaid and CHIP
- Most Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans