

Patient Selection for the Civic Campus Dental Clinic

Anesthesiologists face unique challenges when providing care outside of the operating room. Space limitations, unfamiliar equipment, staff less familiar with perioperative concerns, and lack of immediately available assistance are a few of the difficulties faced in the “office” setting. These factors place unique emphasis on communication and the careful selection of both patients and procedures for this environment.

The matching of patient, procedure, and environment is largely subjective. A patient suitable for a single extraction under local anesthesia may not be suitable for a multiple extractions under general anesthesia. Framing these issues clearly in a protocol is challenging. To facilitate perioperative care the Department of Anesthesia suggests the following criteria and processes for patients scheduled for procedures in the Dental Clinic:

1. Preoperative Evaluation
 - 1.1 All patients scheduled for a procedure in the Dental Clinic should be assessed by anesthesia preoperatively.
 - 1.2 Requests for Admission (RFAs) should be received no later than 3 weeks preoperatively.
 - 1.3 For those patients with developmental delay or other communication difficulties please ensure that a medical history from the patient’s physician is included with the RFA.
 - 1.4 More urgent referrals may be accommodated, but must be arranged by phoning the Pre-Admission Unit at 761-4602.
 - 1.5 To facilitate planning, the extent of the procedure planned and the type of anesthetic required should be clearly identified in the “Comments” section of the RFA.
2. Patients inappropriate for general anesthesia in the dental clinic include:
 - 2.1 Known or suspected difficult airway.
 - 2.2 Coronary, valvular, or congenital heart disease awaiting surgery.
 - 2.3 Obstructive sleep apnea requiring CPAP therapy.
 - 2.4 Uncooperative patients requiring physical restraint.
 - 2.5 Malignant hyperthermia
3. Preoperative testing
 - 3.1 Laboratory testing will be guided by corporate testing policy.
4. Fasting guidelines
 - 4.1 Patients will abstain from solid food from midnight.
 - 4.2 Water may be taken by mouth until 3 hours preoperatively.
 - 4.3 Usual medications may be taken with sips of water preoperatively, as directed by PAU staff.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the preoperative assessment of a patient in our practice please call the Pre-Admission Unit at 761-4602. Our staff would be happy to assist you.