

## **About General Anesthesia and Pediatric Dentistry**

Cobblestone Kids – Cherry Hill

# Why General Anesthesia?

Your child's dentist may recommend general anesthesia when:

- The treatment plan is extensive or would require multiple visits.
- Your child is too young or too anxious to safely tolerate treatment while awake.
- Your child has special healthcare needs that make in-office treatment difficult.

With GA, your child will be completely asleep during the procedure and won't feel any pain or remember anything afterward.

#### Who Provides the Anesthesia?

We partner with Concierge Sedation Associates (CSA), led by Dr. Elisabeth Goldstein, a board-certified pediatric anesthesiologist. Your child's anesthesia will be administered and monitored by this experienced medical team in our Cherry Hill office.

## **Preparing at Home**

The day before your procedure, a CSA team member will call you with specific instructions. These will include:

- When your child can eat or drink before the procedure (based on age).
- Any medications to take or avoid.
- What time to arrive.

Please have a pen and paper ready for the call, and remember: no food or milk after midnight the night before. Only clear liquids may be given up to 2 hours before arrival (e.g., water, Pedialyte®, clear juice).

#### What Happens the Day of the Procedure?

- Upon arrival, your child's vitals and medical history will be reviewed.
- You'll be asked to sign consent forms.
- If needed, your child may receive a mild, flavored medicine to help them relax.
- You may stay with your child until they are asleep.

Anesthesia begins with a small mask placed over your child's nose and mouth. Once asleep, an IV is placed to deliver additional medications. Throughout the procedure, your child is continuously monitored by the CSA team.

#### **How You Can Help Your Child Feel Comfortable**

Your presence is powerful. You can:

- Bring a favorite blanket or stuffed animal
- Hold your child's hand or gently comfort them
- Speak softly or sing to soothe them

If you feel anxious and prefer not to be present, please let us know — your child's safety is our top priority, and our team will take great care of them.

#### After the Procedure

Your child will be taken to a recovery area and monitored closely as they wake up. After-effects may include:

- Sleepiness or grogginess
- Slight sore throat or dry mouth
- Mild nausea
- Sore gums or lips, depending on the treatment

We recommend soft foods and quiet activities for the rest of the day. Your child should not return to school or daycare until the following day at the earliest.

## Follow-Up & At-Home Care

Tylenol® or Motrin® can be given as needed for soreness.

- Encourage hydration and rest.
- We will schedule a post-op appointment if needed.

Call our office if your child experiences:

- Fever
- Heavy gum bleeding
- Ongoing vomiting or dizziness
- Pain not relieved by medication

#### **Special Considerations**

Please let us know ahead of time if your child:

- Has been sick recently (cold, cough, congestion)
- Has any medical conditions or special needs
- Requires extra accommodations

We want to ensure your child's experience is safe and positive. If your child is unwell before their procedure, it may need to be rescheduled.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at (267)909-9551 Ext 4. We're here to help every step of the way.