

## **Exhibit A – Short Procedure Units (SPU) Criteria**

**Reference:** American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

**All SPU cases must be pre-authorized. A narrative and documentation (radiographs, etc.) demonstrating need must be provided for consideration.**

In most cases, short procedure units are approved (for procedures covered by health plan) if the following is (are) involved:

- A. Young children requiring extensive operative procedures such as multiple restorations, treatment of abscesses or oral surgical procedures if prior authorization documentation indicates that in-office treatment (nitrous oxide or IV sedation) is not appropriate and hospitalization is not solely based upon reducing, avoiding, or controlling apprehension.
- B. Patients requiring extensive dental procedures and classified as American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Class III and ASA Class IV (Class III – patients with uncontrolled disease or significant systemic disease; for example, poorly controlled hypertension, poorly controlled diabetes, upper respiratory infection, an arrhythmia, recent MI, recent stroke, new chest pain, etc. Class IV – patient with severe systemic disease that is a constant threat to life).
- C. Medically compromised patients whose medical history indicates that the monitoring of vital signs or the availability of resuscitative equipment is necessary during dental procedures.
- D. Patients requiring extensive dental procedures with a medical history of uncontrolled bleeding, severe cerebral palsy, or other medical condition that renders in-office treatment not medically appropriate.
- E. Patients requiring extensive dental procedures who have documentation of psychosomatic disorders that require special treatment.
- F. Persons with cognitive disabilities requiring extensive dental procedures and whose prior history indicates hospitalization is appropriate.
- G. Hospitalized individuals who need extensive restorative or surgical procedures, or whose physician has requested a dental consultation.

### **Additional Information**

1. Procedures that may meet clinical criteria for approval may be disallowed due to frequency limitations.
2. Services that fail to meet clinical criteria due to prior treatment will be disallowed.
3. SPU facility fees and anesthesia are billed to Medical. This includes all forms of anxiolysis, including General Anesthesia, Conscious Sedation, and Nitrous Oxide.