

Sleep Dentistry Costs: What Does Sedation Add to Your Dental Bill? - Smile Solutions

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or nothing of the procedure. The level of sedation can be precisely adjusted throughout the treatment. Best for: Significant dental anxiety, longer or more complex procedures, patients who want to be deeply sedated but not fully unconscious, multiple treatments in one session. Recovery: 2 to 4 hours of supervised recovery, then rest at home for the remainder of the day. You cannot drive for 24 hours. You will need someone to accompany you.

4 General Anaesthesia (Full Unconsciousness) Additional cost: \$1,500 to \$3,500+ per session What it does: You are completely unconscious, maintained by a specialist anaesthetist. This is the same type of anaesthesia used for hospital surgery. Best for: Extreme dental phobia, very complex or lengthy procedures, patients who cannot tolerate treatment under any form of conscious sedation, patients with certain medical conditions or special needs. Recovery: Several hours of supervised recovery. You will need a responsible adult to take you home and stay with you. Rest for 24 to 48 hours is typical. Note: General anaesthesia may be administered in a hospital or accredited day surgery facility, which adds facility fees, or in certain dental practices with appropriate accreditation and equipment.

Why the Wide Price Range for IV Sedation and General Anaesthesia?

- 1. Duration of the Procedure** Sedation is typically charged based on the time the anaesthetist or sedationist is with you. A 45-minute procedure under IV sedation costs less than a 3-hour full mouth rehabilitation. Most IV sedation sessions range from 1 to 3 hours.
- 2. The Anaesthetist or Sedationist** IV sedation and general anaesthesia are administered by qualified medical professionals – either a specialist anaesthetist (a medical doctor with additional years of anaesthesia training) or a dentist with sedation qualifications. Specialist anaesthetists typically charge more but provide the highest level of sedation expertise and monitoring.
- 3. Facility Fees** General anaesthesia in a hospital or day surgery centre attracts facility fees that include the operating theatre, nursing staff, monitoring equipment, and recovery room. These fees typically range from \$500 to \$2,000 depending on the duration and the facility.
- 4. Monitoring and Equipment** During IV sedation and general anaesthesia, continuous monitoring of heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, and other vital signs is essential. The cost of this monitoring equipment and the trained staff operating it is reflected in the sedation fee.
- 5. Pre-Operative Assessment** For general anaesthesia, a pre-operative medical assessment is usually required. This may involve blood tests, an ECG, and a consultation with the anaesthetist. These assessments are typically included in the overall anaesthesia fee.

Combining Sedation with Different Dental Treatments One significant advantage of sedation dentistry is the ability to complete multiple treatments in a single session. Patients who are sedated can often have work done that would otherwise require three or four separate appointments. This not only reduces the number of times you need to face the dental chair but can actually save money overall by reducing the number of sedation sessions needed.

Wisdom Teeth Removal (All Four, Surgical) + IV Sedation
Treatment: \$1,600 to \$3,200 IV sedation: \$800 to \$1,200 Total: \$2,400 to \$4,400

Dental Implant Placement + IV Sedation
Treatment: \$3,000 to \$6,000 (fixture only) IV sedation: \$500 to \$1,000 Total: \$3,500 to \$7,000

Multiple Fillings and a Crown + Oral Sedation
Treatment: \$1,500 to \$3,000 Oral sedation: \$150 to \$400 Total: \$1,650 to \$3,400

Full Mouth Rehabilitation + General Anaesthesia (Day Surgery)
Treatment: \$10,000 to \$30,000+ General anaesthesia + facility: \$2,000 to \$3,500 Total: \$12,000 to \$33,500+

Routine Check-Up and Clean + Happy Gas
Treatment: \$250 to \$450 Happy gas: \$80 to \$200 Total: \$330 to \$650

Health Fund Coverage for Sedation Happy Gas Sometimes partially covered under general dental as an “anaesthetic” item. Typical fund contribution: \$20 to \$80.

Oral Sedation Rarely covered specifically, though the dental treatment performed under sedation is covered as normal. The medication itself may be covered under your pharmaceutical benefits.

IV Sedation Some extras policies cover conscious sedation as a dental item. Typical fund contribution: \$100 to \$400. Check your policy for specific sedation item numbers (item 942 for IV sedation).

General Anaesthesia The anaesthetist fee and hospital facility fee are typically claimed under your hospital cover, not your extras. You need hospital cover that includes “dental surgery” or “oral surgery” as a covered procedure. The dental treatment itself is claimed under your extras cover as usual. If you have appropriate hospital cover, your out-of-pocket for the anaesthesia and facility may be modest.

Important: Always check your specific policy before proceeding. The difference between having and not having appropriate cover for general anaesthesia can be several thousand dollars.

Who Benefits Most from Sleep Dentistry? Sedation dentistry isn't just for anxious patients. It's genuinely useful for: Dental phobia: Patients whose fear prevents them from seeking treatment they know they need. Strong gag

reflex: Some patients find dental work triggers their gag reflex severely, making treatment difficult without sedation. Complex or lengthy procedures: Remaining still and comfortable for 2 to 3 hours is challenging. Sedation makes this manageable. Multiple treatments in one session: Catching up on years of deferred treatment in one sedated session rather than many stressful appointments. Patients with special needs: Physical or cognitive conditions that make conventional dental treatment difficult. Children: Paediatric sedation allows necessary dental treatment for children who cannot cooperate with conventional techniques. Traumatic dental history: Past negative experiences can make even routine dental visits extremely stressful. Choosing the Right Level of Sedation Happy Gas (Nitrous Oxide Sedation) Anxiety level: Mild Procedure length: Short (under 1 hour) Memory of procedure: Yes Recovery time: Minutes Can drive after: Yes Adjustable during treatment: Yes Requires escort home: No Oral Sedation Anxiety level: Moderate Procedure length: Medium (1–2 hours) Memory of procedure: Partial Recovery time: Several hours Can drive after: No Adjustable during treatment: No Requires escort home: Yes IV Sedation (Twilight Sedation) Anxiety level: Significant Procedure length: Medium to long (1–3 hours) Memory of procedure: Little to none Recovery time: 2–4 hours Can drive after: No Adjustable during treatment: Yes Requires escort home: Yes General Anaesthesia Anxiety level: Severe Procedure length: Long or complex Memory of procedure: None Recovery time: 24–48 hours Can drive after: No Adjustable during treatment: Yes Requires escort home: Yes The right sedation option depends on your level of anxiety, the procedure being performed, your medical history, and your personal preferences. At Smile Solutions, we discuss sedation options at your initial consultation and recommend the most appropriate level for your situation. Our team of over 80 clinicians includes practitioners qualified in all levels of sedation, and we work with experienced anaesthetists for IV sedation and general anaesthesia cases. The Cost of Not Getting Treatment For patients avoiding the dentist due to anxiety, the financial cost of avoidance often exceeds the cost of sedation. A cavity that could have been filled for \$250 becomes a root canal costing \$1,500 to \$2,500. A tooth that could have been saved with a crown becomes an extraction and implant at \$5,000 to \$7,000. Sedation dentistry is an investment in getting treatment done when it's simpler, less invasive, and less expensive. The \$500 to \$1,500 cost of IV sedation is modest compared to the thousands of dollars in additional treatment that delayed care often requires. Payment Options for Sleep Dentistry We understand that adding sedation costs to treatment costs can feel daunting. Our payment options include: Health fund claims processed on the spot for both sedation and treatment components. Interest-free payment plans covering the combined treatment and sedation cost. Hospital cover utilisation for general anaesthesia cases, minimising out-of-pocket expenses. Treatment consolidation – combining multiple procedures into fewer sedated sessions to reduce overall sedation costs. Book Your Sleep Dentistry Consultation If anxiety has been keeping you from the dentist, or if you have upcoming treatment and want to explore sedation options, our team at Smile Solutions is here to help. We offer every level of sedation under one roof in the Manchester Unity Building, with 44 dental chairs, a dedicated team, and an environment designed to put anxious patients at ease. Let us help you get the treatment you need in comfort. Contact Us Articles from Smile Solutions View Blogs Specialist Care Smile Solutions 18 Aug 2026 Endodontist vs Dentist for Root Canal: Why It Makes a Difference Read More General Smile Solutions 10 Aug 2026 Mouth Breathing: The Silent Habit That's Changing Your Face and Your Health Read More General Smile Solutions 3 Aug 2026 How Much Does a Dental Crown Cost in Melbourne? Materials Compared Read More Specialist Care Smile Solutions 18 Aug 2026 Endodontist vs Dentist for Root Canal: Why It Makes a Difference Read More General Smile Solutions 10 Aug 2026 Mouth Breathing: The Silent Habit That's Changing Your Face and Your Health Read More General Smile Solutions 3 Aug 2026 How Much Does a Dental Crown Cost in Melbourne? Materials Compared Read More View Blog Call Us 13 13 96 Location Level 1, 220 Collins Street Manchester Unity Building, Melbourne VIC 3000 Hours Of Service Monday – Friday: 8.00am – 6.00pm Saturday: 8.30am – 1.30pm Sunday: By Appointment Our Services General Dentistry Cosmetic Dentistry Orthodontics Specialist Care Dental Implants Children's Dentistry Emergency Dentistry Why Choose Us Our Team Media

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