



Dream your way through dental treatment.

## The ASA Physical Classification System

Before referring a patient for sedation in primary care, it's important to check that their health falls into ASA 1 or ASA 2 categories. This helps keep the sedation as safe as possible.

Basically, **ASA 2** means the patient has a **mild, well-controlled health condition**, while **ASA 3** means they have a **more serious, uncontrolled condition**.

Patients with a **BMI over 40 usually aren't suitable** for sedation in primary care.

ASA PHYSICAL STATUS CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	ADULT EXAMPLES
ASA I	A normal healthy patient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthy</li><li>• Normal BMI</li><li>• Non smoker</li><li>• No or minimal alcohol consumption</li></ul>
ASA II	A patient with mild systemic disease without significant functional limitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Active smoker</li><li>• Social alcohol consumption</li><li>• Pregnancy</li><li>• Obesity (BMI 30-40)</li><li>• Controlled diabetes mellitus (DM) and hypertension</li><li>• Mild pulmonary dysfunction</li></ul>
ASA III	A patient with severe systemic disease with significant functional limitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alcohol dependence or abuse</li><li>• Morbid obesity - BMI of more than 40</li><li>• Poorly controlled DM and hypertension</li><li>• Active hepatitis</li><li>• Implanted pacemaker</li><li>• Moderate reduction of ejection fraction</li><li>• End-stage renal disease - Undergoing regular scheduled dialysis</li><li>• Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)</li><li>• Premature infant with a postconceptual age of less than 60 weeks</li><li>• Myocardial infarction more than 3 months ago</li><li>• Cerebrovascular accident (CVA) or transient ischemic attack (TIA)</li><li>• Coronary artery disease (CAD) with stents</li></ul>

ASA PHYSICAL STATUS CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	ADULT EXAMPLES
ASA IV	A patient with severe systemic disease with constant threat to life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myocardial infarction less than 3 months ago</li> <li>• CVA or TIA less than 3 months ago</li> <li>• CAD with stents less than 3 months ago</li> <li>• Ongoing cardiac ischemia or severe valve dysfunction</li> <li>• Severe reduction of ejection fraction</li> <li>• Sepsis</li> <li>• Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)</li> <li>• Acute respiratory distress syndrom (ARDS)</li> <li>• ESRD - Not undergoing regular scheduled dialysis</li> </ul>
ASA V	A moribund patient not expected to survive without the operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruptured thoracic or abdominal aneurysm</li> <li>• Massive trauma</li> <li>• Intracranial bleeding with mass effect</li> <li>• Ischemic bowel with significant cardiac pathology</li> <li>• Multiple organ or system dysfunction</li> </ul>
ASA VI	A declared brain-dead patient with plans for organ donation.	