

COASTAL ANESTHESIOLOGY MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

Competent, Compassionate, Consistent and Comprehensive Anesthetic Care

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Pediatric Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI) Guidelines

The most conservative approach is to cancel all elective surgery for pediatric patients with upper respiratory tract infections. Realistically, this is not always beneficial to patients who are suffering morbidity from a surgical problem or for whom the logistics are complicated. Therefore, the following approach to this clinical dilemma is suggested, based on the most current literature.

Children with any of the following findings should have their procedures cancelled and rescheduled after 4 weeks:

- Mucopurulent secretions
- Productive cough
- Elevated white blood cell count
- Positive findings on chest examination
- Decreased oxygen saturation
- Abnormal chest x-ray

Children with the following findings may proceed to surgery:

- Clear nasal secretions
- Non-productive cough
- Normal white blood cell count
- Clear chest on examination
- Normal oxygen saturation
- Normal chest x-ray

Please do not hesitate to call our office if you have any questions or concerns about these guidelines, or about any other anesthesia-related issue.

8/4/2010