

Policy on Hospital Staff Membership

Originating Committee

Hospital Guidelines for Pedodontics Ad Hoc Committee

Review Council

Council on Clinical Affairs

Adopted

1977

Revised

1979, 1991, 1999, 2002, 2005

Purpose

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recognizes that dentists have the opportunity to play a significant role within a hospital. Staff membership is necessary to provide comprehensive, consultative, and/or emergency dental services for infants, children, adolescents, and persons with special health care needs within the hospital setting.

Methods

This policy is based on a review of the *2004 Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals: The Official Handbook*.¹

Background

Most commonly, the pediatric dentist can provide essential services to patients within an operating room setting. Additionally, the pediatric dentist can provide consultative and emergency services.² "Team" (eg, cleft lip/palate, hemophilia) evaluations of patients often require dental input, and certain medical protocols (eg, hematopoietic cell transplantation) require an oral examination. Beyond patient services, a pediatric dentist may participate within the hospital's organizational structure through committee memberships of either clinical or administrative purpose. A pediatric dentist can partner with medical colleagues in self-development through hospital-sponsored continuing medical education.

Health care providers seeking hospital staff membership must contact the medical staff office at an area hospital. Following a credentialing process and appointment to a medical staff, a pediatric dentist must accept and fulfill certain responsibilities. Among them are patient care within the limits of approved clinical privileges, participation in emergency department on-call rotations, timely medical records completion, and compliance with the rules and regulations of the medical/dental staff and the policies and procedures of the hospital.

Although hospital and medical/dental staffs have some individual latitude, the standards for all hospital services are issued by national commissions such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization (JCAHO).¹ Standards for dental services are integrated intimately and inseparably within the overall hospital organizational structure and, therefore, are stringently subject to the standards established by these commissions.

Policy statement

The AAPD:

1. Encourages the participation of pediatric dentists on hospital medical/dental staffs. Beyond having the capability to provide valuable services to their patients, the pediatric dentist can be an effective, contributing member to the hospital through consultative services, educational opportunities, leadership initiatives, and committee membership.
2. Recognizes the American Dental Association as a corporate member of the JCAHO and further recognizes the standards for hospital governance, as established by the JCAHO.
3. Encourages hospital member pediatric dentists to maintain strict adherence to the rules and regulations of the medical/dental staff and the policies and procedures of the hospital.

References

1. Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. Medical staff chapter (MS). In: *2004 Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals: The Official Handbook*. Oakbrook Terrace, Ill: Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations; 2004.
2. Weddell JA, Jones JE. Hospital dental services for children and the use of general anesthesia. In: McDonald RE, Avery DR, Dean JA, eds. *Dentistry for the Child and Adolescent*. 8th ed. St. Louis, Mo: Mosby; 2004:314.

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