

# Policy on Emergency Oral Care for Infants, Children, and Adolescents

**Originating Committee**

Policy and Review Committee

**Review Council**

Council on Clinical Affairs

**Adopted**

1976

**Revised**

1993, 2000, 2003

**Reaffirmed**

1996, 2007

The American Dental Association's Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct states that emergency care is an essential duty of every dentist.<sup>1</sup> A dentist who accepts an infant, child, or adolescent as a patient of record shall make reasonable arrangements for emergency oral/dental care, along with providing instructions to the parent for accessing emergency care. When consulted in an emergency by patients not of record, the dentist should make reasonable arrangements for emergency care.

**Reference**

1. American Dental Association. Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct. Available at: "<http://www.ada.org/prof/prac/law/code/index.asp>". Accessed February 28, 2007.

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