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1 Policy on Emergency Oral Care for Infants, Children, ~~and~~ Adolescents,
2 and Persons with Special Health Care Needs

3
4 Originating Committee

5 Policy and Review Committee

6 Review Council

7 Council on Clinical Affairs

8 Adopted

9 1976

10 Reaffirmed

11 1996, 2007

12 Revised

13 1993, 2000, 2003, 2012, 2017

14

15 The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (**AAPD**) recognizes emergency care for infants,
16 children, ~~and~~ adolescents, and persons with special health care needs is an essential duty of every
17 dentist. The American Dental Association’s Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct
18 states that “dentists shall be obliged to make reasonable arrangements for the emergency care of their
19 patients of record”. The ~~AAPD-ADA~~ recommends dentists should provide instructions to the parent
20 for accessing emergency care¹. Accessibility to after-hours emergency care is an important aspect
21 continually accessible care². ~~Similarly,~~ Additionally, when consulted for a dental emergency by
22 patients not of record, the dentist should make reasonable arrangements for emergency dental care. If
23 emergency dental treatment is provided, the dentist should recommend that the patient return to
24 his/her dental home unless the parent expresses a different preference¹.

25

26 **References**

27 1. American Dental Association. Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.

28 Available at:

29 “http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Publications/Files/ADA_Code_of_Ethics_2016.pdf?la=en”

30 Accessed February 15, 2017. (Archived by WebCite® at

31 [“http://www.webcitation.org/6oIYOIMSa”](http://www.webcitation.org/6oIYOIMSa))

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- 33 2. Brecher EA, Keels MA, Quiñonez RB, Roberts MW, Bordley WC. A policy review of after-
34 hours emergency dental care responsibilities. J Pub Health Dent 2016;76(4):263-8.