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1 Policy on the Role of Pediatric Dentists as Both Primary and Specialty Care
2 Providers

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4 Review Council

5 Council on Clinical Affairs

6 ~~Reaffirmed~~

7 2013

8 Latest Revision

9 2018

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11 Purpose

12 The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) emphasizes that health care providers and other
13 interested third parties must recognize the dual role that pediatric dentists play in the provision of
14 professional preventive and therapeutic oral health care, which includes both primary and specialty care
15 services.

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17 Methods

18 This policy was originally developed by the Council on Clinical Affairs and adopted in 2003. This is a
19 revision ~~an affirmation~~ of the last ~~revision~~ version reaffirmed in 2013, and was It is based on a review of
20 the accreditation standards for advanced specialty training programs in pediatric dentistry and the AAPD
21 position paper on the role of pediatric dentists as primary and specialty care providers^{1,2}. An electronic
22 search was conducted using the terms pediatric dentist, pediatric specialist, primary care provider, dual
23 care provider, and specialty care provider.

24

25 Background

26 “Pediatric dentistry is an age-related specialty that provides both primary and comprehensive preventive
27 and therapeutic oral health needs for infants and children through adolescence, including those with
28 special health care needs”². The American Dental Association, the American Academy of General
29 Dentistry, and the AAPD all recognize the pediatric dentist as both a primary care provider and specialty
30 care provider. The dual role of pediatric dentists is similar to that of pediatricians, gynecologists, and

