

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

Originating Committee

Policy and Review Committee

Review Council

Council on Clinical Affairs

Adopted

1976

Reaffirmed

1996, 2007

Revised

1993, 2000, 2003, 2012

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recognizes emergency care for infants, children, and adolescents is an essential duty of every dentist. The American Dental Association's Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct states that "dentists shall be obliged to make reasonable arrangements for the emergency care of their patients of record". The AAPD recommends dentists should provide instructions to the parent for accessing emergency care.¹ Similarly, when consulted for a dental emergency by patients not of record, the dentist should make reasonable arrangements

for emergency dental care. If emergency dental treatment is provided, the dentist should recommend that the patient return to his/her dental home unless the parent expresses a different preference.¹

Reference

1. American Dental Association. Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct. Available at: "http://www.ada.org/sections/about/pdfs/code_of_ethics_2012.pdf". Accessed June 24, 2012.