

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE POLICY DIRECTIVE 47-1

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Dental

DENTAL SERVICES

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This Directive implements the following statutes for the Dental Service and its activities worldwide: Title 10, United States Code, Sections 1074, 1074a, 1076, 1076a, and 1077 when applied to Dental Practice. This Directive also implements the dental readiness policy portions of Department of Defense Instruction 6025.19, *Individual Medical Readiness*; Department of Defense Directive 6200.04, *Force Health Protection* and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) policy letters: 97-061, *Policy on Reporting Dental Workload and Diagnostic Data*; 98-031, *Revised Utilization Management Policy for the Direct Care System*; 01-025, *Reserve Forces Periodic Dental Examination* and 03-017, *Policy for Standardized Dental Appointment Types* when applied to dental practice; 98-021, *Policies on Uniformity of Dental Classification System, Frequency of Periodic Dental Examinations, Active Duty Overseas Screening, and Dental Deployment Standards*; 02-011, *Policy on Standardization of Oral Health and Readiness Classifications*; 05-020, *Policy for Cosmetic Surgery Procedures in the Military Health System when applied to oral surgeons*, 06-001, *Policy on Oral Health and Readiness*; 07-017, *Dental Readiness Within The Services* and 07-011, *Policy on Space Available Dental Care*. The Air Force also recognizes, and this policy implements, civilian standards reflected by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This Directive establishes the Air Force Dental Service policy for developing and maintaining comprehensive programs for the prevention and treatment of dental disease to ensure personnel dental readiness in support of expeditionary operations. This Directive applies to all active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel in military status. It establishes

individual dental health and readiness classifications and establishes responsibility for the performance of clearance evaluations and provision and documentation of dental treatment(s).

Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF Forms 847 from the field through appropriate functional's chain of command. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with Air Force Records Information Management System, and Records Disposition Schedule.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This publication has received major modifications. This document references applicable statutes identified in Title 10, United States Code; updates references that are pertinent and removes those that have been rescinded, and updates format to comply with AFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management. The provision for alignment to current Trusted Care and High Reliability Organization concepts was added.

1. Overview. Health Affair Policy Memorandum 02-011 states that the Military Health System is responsible for the assurance of the overall oral health of all uniformed Department of Defense personnel. Air Force dental treatment facilities work to provide dental services safely and efficiently to optimize oral health. Oral Health is defined as patients with a current dental examination, who do not require dental treatment or reevaluation.

2. Policy.

2.1. Oral health and hygiene are important components of force fitness and deployment readiness. The Air Force will establish and maintain comprehensive programs for the prevention and treatment of dental disease, in alignment with the Air Force Medical Service goal to become a High Reliability Organization to meet its goal of consistently providing patients the highest quality care in a safe and error free environment. Air Force Trusted Care is the High Reliability effort to create a continuous learning and improving organization that partner with patients and families in a single-minded focus on safety and zero harm.

2.2. The dental treatment facility will provide for periodic examinations for all Air Force personnel in military status to include Air Reserve Component, establish individual dental health and readiness classification, and perform clearance evaluations. A priority-based appointment system will be used to maximize dental readiness. Air Reserve Component personnel are eligible to be seen in a dental treatment facility for periodic examinations. Air Reserve Component members need not be in military status to schedule an appointment, however, they must be in military status (active, inactive, or points only) at the time the examination is performed.

2.3. The dental treatment facility will provide and document dental treatment(s) to Regular Air Force and Air Reserve Component members on Active Duty orders greater than 30 days for the prevention and treatment of dental disease. For Air Reserve Component members, dental care should be appropriate for the treatment of injury, illness, or disease to meet dental

standards required for deployment and must be initiated and completed during the period of eligibility; care cannot be extended or continued over non-continuous periods of eligibility.

3. Roles and Responsibilities.

3.1. The Air Force Surgeon General serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force on all health, medical and dental matters of the Air Force, including strategic planning and policy development relating to such matters. The Air Force Surgeon General is also responsible for interface with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) and the Defense Health Agency concerning development of Department of Defense policy and in coordination with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower and Reserve Affairs). The Air Force Surgeon General ensures the development of policies, detailed guidance, and may further direct/delegate authority to fully implement Department of Defense Instruction 6025.19, Individual Medical Readiness.

3.2. The Chief of Dental Services at an Air Force dental treatment facility shall provide periodic dental evaluations, risk-based assessment for oral diseases and conditions, and dental treatment to ensure optimal dental readiness for Air Force personnel.

HEATHER WILSON
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

DoDI 6025.19, *Individual Medical Readiness*, June 9, 2014

DoDD 6200.04, *Force Health Protection*, 3 Apr 2007

OASD(HA) Policy Letter P97-061, *Policy on Reporting Dental Workload and Diagnostic Data*, August 14, 1997

OASD(HA) Policy Letter P98-021, *Policies on Uniformity of Dental Classification System, Frequency of Periodic Dental Examinations, Active Duty Overseas Screening, and Dental Deployment Standards*, February 19, 1998.

OASD(HA) Policy Letter P98-031 *Revised Utilization Management Policy for the Direct Care System*, April 15, 1998.

OASD/HA Policy Letter P01-025, *Reserve Forces Periodic Dental Examination*, February 5, 2001

OASD/HA Policy Letter P02-011, *Policy on Standardization of Oral Health and Readiness Classifications*, June 4, 2002

OASD(HA) Policy Letter P03-017, *Policy for Standardized Dental Appointment Types*, July 23, 2003

OASD(HA) Policy Letter P05-020, *Policy for Cosmetic Surgery Procedures in the Military Health System*, October 25, 2005.

OASD(HA) Policy Letter P06-001, *Policy on Oral Health and Readiness*, January 9, 2006

OASD(HA) Policy Letter P07-011, *Policy on Space Available Dental Care*, July 25, 2007

OASD(HA) Policy Letter P07-017, *Dental Readiness Within The Services*, August 28, 2007

Office of the Air Force Surgeon General. *Trusted Care Concept of Operations*, October 2015.

Title 10, USC, Chapter 55, Sections 1074, 1074a, 1076, 1076a and 1077

Prescribed Forms

None

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication

Abbreviations and Acronyms

DoDD—Department of Defense Directive

DoDI—Department of Defense Instruction

HAF—Headquarters Air Force

OASD(HA)—Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)