

	Policy Area: Medical Staff
Name of Policy: Dental Services	Replaces Policy Dated: June 17, 2015
Pages: 1	Effective Date: February 21, 2018

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide dental service on routine and/or emergency basis to patients who have a need of such service. This policy applies to all patients and professional clinical staff at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Southlake (TH Southlake).

II. POLICY

It is the policy of TH Southlake that each patient shall be encouraged and assisted to obtain and maintain an adequate level of oral health through periodic examination, prophylaxis by a dental hygienist, and other required dental treatments by his/her personal dentist.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. The attending physician may elect to do an oral exam and document the assessment in the History and Physical.
- B. The facility shall advise and assist in providing proper dental care to all clients. Nursing personnel shall assist patients and educate, as needed, in correct oral hygiene and denture care.
- C. Nursing staff shall carry out orders of the attending physician and/or dentist concerning medication, treatment and oral hygiene as ordered.
- D. All patient dentures shall be properly cleaned and maintained as part of their daily hygiene procedures. When dentures are removed from the patient's mouth for a specific reason, (i.e. surgery) other than for daily oral hygiene, the dentures shall be placed in a denture container and labeled with the patient's name and room number. The dentures shall be secured with the patient's belongings, or given directly to a family member. Documentation of disposition of dentures shall be made in the patient's medical record.
- E. When circumstances or condition warrants, emergency dental services shall be provided for patients by physicians of dentistry on staff at TH Southlake within twenty-four (24) hours of request. If the condition is non-emergent, the patient shall be referred to their personal dentist upon discharge. Patients with a need shall be offered dental services, if condition warrants.