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**Dental**

**BASE DENTAL SERVICE**

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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive 47-1, *Dental Services*, and establishes guidance for obtaining emergency and routine dental care. It clarifies priorities for treatment and outlines services available to eligible beneficiaries. It makes unit commanders responsible for ensuring their personnel adhere to dental service policies. It applies to all active duty and retired personnel and their family members.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

Changes term "Flight Commander, Dental Services" to "Dental Flight Commander. Adds paragraphs **5.4** and **6.5**, adds and defines space-available care for retirees. A bar (|) indicates revisions from the previous edition.

**1. Mission.** The primary mission of the Dental Service is to maintain the oral health of Air Force members and that of other uniformed services to ensure their maximum combat capability and wartime readiness. Secondary missions include: training to ensure competency in tasks required to support the medical mission of the Medical Operations Squadron in time of war or contingency situations and providing oral health care during peacetime.

**2. Responsibilities.** The Dental Flight Commander (DFC) is responsible for management of all professional, technical, and administrative activities relating to the operation of the dental service.

2.1. Unit commanders are responsible for ensuring their personnel and their family members know and adhere to policies for dental services.

2.2. Each active duty member is responsible for:

2.2.1. Reporting to the clinic for their periodic dental examination and complying with dental service policies.

2.2.2. Availing himself or herself of dental care to be either eligible for worldwide duty or progressing towards that end.

2.2.3. Informing the Dental Clinic with specific information regarding any dental care obtained off base.

### **3. Eligibility for Dental Care:**

3.1. Members on active duty, foreign military members and others are eligible for care as specified in AFI 41-115, *Authorized Health Care in the Military Health Services System (MHSS)*.

3.2. All individuals seeking dental care, who are of age 10 or above, must present a valid identification card. When an identification card is not available, member must report to the Patient Administration Office for determination of eligibility.

### **4. TRICARE Active Duty Family Member Dental Plan (FMDP):**

4.1. The FMDP is the government-sponsored dental insurance plan for family members of active duty uniformed service members. Under its provisions, family members obtain dental care from civilian dental providers with reimbursement provided by the Plan. It is expected that the FMDP will be the primary source of dental care for eligible family members. All eligible active duty members are highly encouraged to enroll their families and take advantage of this benefit.

4.2. Members should contact the Health Benefits Advisor for an explanation of benefits, eligibility, and reimbursement.

### **5. Prioritization of Dental Care:**

5.1. Patients requiring immediate attention to relieve pain, control bleeding, and manage acute septic conditions or injuries to the oral-facial structures.

5.2. Aircrew members, people on mobility status, patients in Dental Readiness Classification 3, and those identified for, or assigned to remote or isolated duty.

5.3. Other active duty and foreign military personnel.

5.4. Retirees on a space-available basis.

### **6. Access to Care:**

6.1. Sick Call and Emergency Care:

6.1.1. Show time for active duty dental sick call is 0730 and 1230 weekdays except holidays and down days, in which case paragraph 6.1.2. applies. Patients requiring emergency care, report to the clinic to be seen as soon as possible. Non-active duty eligible beneficiaries will be provided palliative urgent care and encouraged to seek definitive care by a civilian dentist at their own expense.

6.1.2. Patients experiencing dental emergencies after duty hours will call the Primary Care Clinic, who in turn will contact the Dental Officer of the Day (DOD) for further patient disposition.

6.2. Routine Dental Care. Active duty service members receive comprehensive routine dental care on an appointment basis. Telephone appointments or further scheduling in person are the usual modality. Routine care is unavailable for non-primary beneficiaries.

6.3. Treatment of Minors. A parent or guardian must accompany children under 18 years of age receiving dental treatment.

6.4. Examinations. A dental examination is required prior to scheduling routine dental care. Patients will not be appointed for routine treatment unless their dental exam is current (within 12 months).

6.4.1. Active duty military members are scheduled by their unit/agency IAW the Air Force Dental Readiness Assurance Program. AFMAN 26-2108, AFMAN 36-2125, and AFMAN 26-2622, Volume 5 (formerly AFM 30-130, Volumes 1 and 2) apply.

6.5. Retiree space available care is limited to examinations, cleanings, and operative (fillings.)

## **7. Cancellations and Broken Appointments:**

7.1. Cancellations should be made more than 24 hours in advance of the appointment time. Notify the Dental Records and Reception Section as soon as situations occur requiring cancellation or rescheduling of an appointment.

7.2. A dental appointment is considered broken if member reports more than 10 minutes late, does not report, or cancels the appointment less than 24 hours prior.

**8. Air Force Preventive Dentistry.** The Dental Service supports the Preventive Dentistry program which affects all military and eligible family members.

8.1. The community phase of this program deals with public dental health education specifically aimed at the base community. It includes the use of various media, group presentations, school programs in public education, and the monitoring of fluoride levels in the base water supply.

8.2. The clinical phase includes active duty examinations, treatment planning, dental sealants and a sports mouth guard program as well as individual oral health counseling. Training and quality assurance of preventive dentistry technician practices are included in this phase.

8.3. The children's health phase includes support of National Children's Dental Health Month Activities occurring each year in February.

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Commander