

MEDICAL STAFF MEMBERSHIP AND THE
STATUS OF CERTAIN RELATED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN HOSPITALS

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1. There should be only one organized medical staff in a hospital, governed by a single set of bylaws adopted by the staff members and approved by the governing authority of the hospital. Medical staff membership should be limited to competent and qualified physicians and surgeons with unlimited licenses to practice, and dentists, in accordance with the medical staff bylaws.
2. The services of certain related health professionals may be made available for patient care as medical staff affiliates within the limits of their skills and the scope of their functions. Their eligibility in general shall be determined on the basis of the following criteria:
 - a. They exercise independent judgment within their areas of competence, provided that a member of the medical staff shall have the ultimate responsibility for patient care.
 - b. They participate directly in the management of patients under the general supervision or direction of a member of the medical staff.
 - c. They write orders and record progress notes on physician's order and physician's progress note forms to the extent established by the medical staff.
 - d. They are authorized, to the extent established by the medical staff, to perform some functions traditionally belonging only to physicians.
3. These health professionals, who are involved in medical diagnosis and treatment to such a degree that they meet all of the criteria specified in paragraph 2 above, must have their credentials, appointment and privileges processed through medical staff channels.
4. It is the obligation of the medical staff of the hospital to recommend to the governing authority the extent of responsibility that may be assumed by members of these related health professions who meet the criteria in paragraph 2 above. To carry out this obligation, the following procedures should be established and provided for in the medical staff bylaws:

- a. The medical staff should determine the general qualifications to be required of members of each of these related health professions.
 - b. Applications for appointment and privileges should be processed through the same channels as those for medical staff membership and privileges.
 - c. Privileges should be considered and specified by the medical staff for each individual, based upon his professional training, experience, and demonstrated competency.
5. Members of these related health professions should be individually assigned to an appropriate clinical department as staff affiliates and should carry out their professional activities subject to department policies and procedures. The bylaws of the medical staff must establish this organizational pattern and relationship. An affiliate or adjunct staff should not be established as an organizational entity.