

MEDICAL STAFF MEMBERSHIP AND STATUS OF ALLIED
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN HOSPITALS

AMA HOUSE ACTION: ADOPTED, and to be disseminated through appropriate channels to all hospital medical staffs

The following joint statement of the AMA and the American Hospital Association was approved by the Board and is submitted to the House of Delegates for its concurrence:

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 allied health professionals may be made available for patient care as medical staff affiliates within the limits of their skills and the scope of their lawful practice. 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 record reports and progress notes on patients' records and write orders to the extent established by the medical staff.
 - d. They perform consultations in conformity with the applicable provisions of the medical staff bylaws.
3. 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 allied health professions. 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 category of allied professionals.
 - 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.
4. Members of these allied health professions should be individually assigned to an appropriate clinical department as staff affiliates and should carry out their professional activities subject to departmental 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.

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