



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF DENTISTRY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Introductory Statement

Policy No.: 1.1
Supersedes:
Revision Date: 11/18/09
Page: 1 of 1

The Department of Dentistry at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center is an integral part of the total patient care program. The Department provides comprehensive dental care for people with physical, medical, and developmental disabilities of all ages. The Department provides specialized training for dental professionals interested in working with people with disabilities as well as for medical and allied health personnel.

The people served by the dental center have limited or no access to community dental care as a result of their disability. These people have dental infection, poor nutritional status and/or permanent disfigurement. For many people with disabilities, an untreated dental infection can result in serious physical damage, especially in those that have had coronary valve replacements, orthopedic prostheses, or suppressed immune system. People must be clear of infection and pain to prevent serious deterioration of their health. People often require highly specialized dental prostheses or procedures available only from Rancho's Dental Center. They should have ongoing and frequent reevaluation. Patients and/or caretakers are taught the principles of good oral hygiene so that they can maintain oral health.

The Department operates an independent General Practice (of Dentistry) Residency and serves as a training site for the Pediatric Dentistry Residency of USC School of Dentistry. The Department and its clinic serves as a training site for dental students, dental hygiene students, and residents in oral and maxillofacial surgery, general dentistry and periodontics from other facilities

The Department works with the Departments of Medicine, Surgery, Neurorehabilitation, Neurology, and Pediatrics to provide needed and appropriate dental care for their patients. Adults and children are treated on in the outpatient dental clinic, on patient units, or in the operating room.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/2002

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

APPROVED BY: Terrie DeBord, DDS