

# DENTAL HOSPITALIST



A dental hospitalist is **currently only a think tank concept** being developed by The Children's Oral Health Institute ([www.mycohi.org](http://www.mycohi.org)) and others in the fields of dental medicine and health care. The developing definition of a dental hospitalist is a doctor of dental medicine who provides maintenance, management and rehabilitation oral health care to hospitalized patients. The dental hospitalist works in tandem with the medical hospitalist, nurse practitioner, critical care nurse, speech pathologist, dental hygienist and the patient's dentist of record to coordinate their oral health care during convalescence.

Dental Hospitalists will provide:

- General oral health hygiene maintenance for the skilled nursing facilities and hospitalized critical care unit patient populations, including but not limited to intubated and post ventilated patients.
- Management of oral lesions, restoration or removal of diseased teeth, debridement and rehabilitation of the soft tissue, and of the swallowing mechanisms.
- Reviews of diagnostic tests in order to make a diagnosis and develop treatment plans, teach patients about their conditions and consult with other physicians in various specialties to determine the best care for their patients.
- Medications, and order treatments and other services including meal planning coordination.

The dental hospitalists will work for a hospital or a medical center as opposed to going into private practice. They spend all of their time in the hospital and are readily available. Day-to-day responsibilities may include examining patients as they are admitted and reviewing lab tests, x-rays and other diagnostic tests as applicable to oral health.

Winifred J. Booker, DDS, FAADP  
CEO & Director of Development  
The Children's Oral Health Institute

Veronique Johnson Williams, MSN, CRNP  
Secretary/Treasurer  
The Children's Oral Health Institute

<https://my.neighbor.org/our-solutions/making-health-a-priority>