

Position Statement on Hospital Privileging of Psychologists and Other Non-Psychiatrist Mental Health Professionals

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2019

Approved by the Assembly, May 2019

Approved by the Board of Trustees, 1970
(reaffirmed 2007)

“This statement was approved by the Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association on December 3-4, 1970, upon recommendation of the Committee on Psychiatry and Psychology. These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

POSITION:

Hospital treatment is the highest level of treatment available to manage complex psychiatric conditions with or without co-morbid general medical disease. The APA advocates that patients hospitalized in both psychiatric and medical settings are best served when responsibility for their mental health and substance use disorder care resides with psychiatrists leading interdisciplinary teams. Psychologists, as well as other mental health professionals, are critical members of such interdisciplinary teams. While they should be eligible for appropriate hospital appointment, they should not be placed in the role of the attending of record.

Authors:

Revisions to the Position Statement was drafted by a work group comprised of members from the Council on Advocacy & Government Relations, the Council on Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, and the Council on Health Services and Financing: Madeline Becker, M.D., Katherine Kennedy, M.D., John Chaves, M.D., Dave Gitlin, M.D., Clarence Chou, M.D., Vikram Kambampati, M.D., and Robert Trestman, Ph.D., M.D.