

**ARIZONA HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION**  
**Q& A REGARDING HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC SERVICES**

1. **Q:** How does a hospital know whether it is licensed to provide organized pediatric services?

**A:** The hospital license lists the number of licensed beds for each organized service. If the hospital license lists a certain number of pediatric beds, then the hospital may provide pediatric services in those beds. Otherwise, the hospital is not licensed to provide organized pediatric services. If a hospital is not licensed to provide organized pediatric services, then it may not provide services to pediatric patients on an inpatient basis, except in certain limited situations (see Q #9). This prohibition does not apply to outpatient services.

2. **Q:** What is an organized service?

**A:** An “organized service” means “specific medical services, such as surgical or emergency services, provided in an area of a hospital designated for the provision of those medical services.” A.A.C. R9-10-201(80). The designated area must meet certain requirements, including certain architectural and other requirements. See AIA Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities.

3. **Q:** What is a pediatric patient?

**A:** A pediatric patient is a patient designated by the hospital as a child based on the hospital’s criteria. A.A.C. R9-10-201(87). The hospital should set forth this criteria in written policies and procedures.

4. **Q:** Is there any minimum age or other restriction with which a hospital must comply in designating its criteria for pediatric patients?

**A:** The Arizona Revised Statutes and the Arizona Administrative Code is silent in for designating criteria for pediatric patients.

5. **Q:** Why is a hospital prohibited from providing inpatient pediatric services if those services are not listed on the hospital’s license?

**A:** An ADHS license is only valid for the class of health care institution, type of services, and licensed capacity specified by the license. A.R.S. § 36-407(A).

**ARIZONA HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION**  
**Q& A REGARDING HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC SERVICES**

For a hospital, licensed capacity means the beds specified on the hospital license. A.R.S. § 36-401(A)(3).

6. **Q:** What must a hospital do in order to offer pediatric services?

**A:** When applying for its license, the hospital must notify ADHS of its licensed capacity, including the number of inpatient beds for each organized service. A.A.C. R9-10-202(A)(1). If the hospital is already licensed, then in order to add organized pediatric services to its license it must: (1) notify the ADHS Office of Medical Facilities Licensing of the change to its offered services; and (2) submit an application for approval of architectural construction or modification.

7. **Q:** Why must the hospital submit an application for approval of architectural construction or modification when it is not undergoing any construction to add the organized pediatric service?

**A:** A modification to the hospital must be preceded by an application for and approval of architectural construction or modification. AAC R9-10-109(B). A "modification" is the *substantial* improvement, enlargement, reduction, alteration of or other change in a health care institution. AAC R9-10-101(35). "Substantial" when used in connection with a modification includes (a) an addition or deletion of an inpatient bed or a change in the use of one or more of the inpatient beds; and (b) a change in a health care institution's licensed capacity. AAC R9-10-101(53). Therefore, if the hospital adds beds or changes the use of non-pediatric beds to pediatric beds, it must first go through the process for approval of architectural construction or modification. ADHS often requires hospitals making architectural modifications to bring the space at issue up to compliance with the current architectural and life safety codes.

8. **Q:** Are there specific regulatory requirements that apply to an organized pediatric services unit?

**A:** Organized pediatric services must (1) be provided in a designated area, (2) be provided under the direction of a medical staff member, (3) include arrangements for a parent or a guardian to stay overnight, (4) include policies and procedures for infection control for shared toys, books, stuffed animals, and other items in a community playroom, and (5) include policies and

**ARIZONA HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION**  
**Q& A REGARDING HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC SERVICES**

procedures for visitation, including age limits, if applicable. A.A.C. R9-10-223.

**9. Q:** If a hospital is not licensed to provide organized pediatric services, when may it admit pediatric patients?

**A:** A hospital that does not provide organized pediatric services “may admit a pediatric patient only in an emergency.” A.A.C. R9-10-223(C).

**10. Q:** What is an emergency?

**A:** An emergency is “an immediate threat to threat to the life or health of the patient.” A.A.C. R9-10-201(41). The Department would expect that the admitting practitioner would document in the medical record the patient’s condition as part of the History and Physical that is required when admitting a patient to the hospital. The documentation in the history and physical would be expected to meet the definition of an emergency condition as described in the rule.

**11. Q:** Must the hospital comply with any requirements when it admits a pediatric patient in an emergency?

**A:** If a hospital that is not licensed to provide organized pediatric services admits a pediatric patient in an emergency, then it must ensure: (1) that the pediatric patient is not placed in a patient room with an adult patient; and (2) that arrangements are made for a parent or a guardian of the pediatric patient to stay overnight, consistent with the health and safety of the patient. A.A.C. R9-10-223(C).

**12. Q:** If a hospital that is not licensed to provide organized pediatric services, admits a pediatric patient in an emergency, how long may the hospital continue to provide care for that patient?

**A:** The licensure rules do not require a hospital that appropriately admits pediatric patients in an emergency to treat those patients differently from any other admitted patient. Therefore, if the hospital has qualified medical staff, nursing staff, ancillary staff, and services along with appropriate equipment and supplies to meet the needs of the patient(s), then the hospital may provide care for that patient until the patient is discharged from the hospital.