

# ACPA APPROVED TEAMS

THE AMERICAN CLEFT PALATE-CRANIOFACIAL ASSOCIATION (ACPA) works with both professionals and patients to create a world, through team care, where individuals with oral cleft and craniofacial conditions thrive.

Children born with cleft lip, cleft palate and/or other craniofacial differences may require individualized treatment from infancy into adulthood. Care is best managed when a team of specialists works with the family to develop and follow a treatment plan. Coordinated teams include experienced and qualified professionals from medical, surgical, dental and allied health disciplines working in an interdisciplinary and coordinated system.

ACPA's mission is to optimize outcomes for patients, and the **ACPA Team Approval** process plays a major part in ensuring this mission becomes a reality.



**How does a team apply to be an ACPA Approved Team?** To apply, each team must submit an application. Information on applications, fees and due dates can be found on the website: <https://acpa-cpf.org/team-care/team-application>.

**How long is a team approved?** Approval is for a period of up to five years.

**What is the Commission on Approval of Teams?** ACPA's Commission on Approval of Teams manages the approval process by maintaining the Standards for Approval of Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Teams, evaluating teams that voluntarily apply for approval and recognizing teams that meet the Standards for approval.



**American Cleft Palate–  
Craniofacial Association**

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**ACPA**  
Approved  
Team

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What is an ACPA Approved Team?** Teams from the US and Canada can apply for recognition as an ACPA Approved Team. This distinction is for teams that demonstrate they meet the Standards for Approval of Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Teams— standards that identify essential characteristics of quality for team composition and functioning.

**What medical professionals are on a team?** ACPA Approved Teams are required to have a care coordinator, an orthodontist, a speech-language pathologist and a surgeon. Teams must also have access to an audiologist, geneticist, otolaryngologist (ENT), pediatrician, pediatric dentist or dental specialist, psychologist and social worker.



**What kind of treatment does a team provide?**

The team will likely request regular visits throughout a child's growing years. After infant surgeries are complete, travel to a team may be limited to once a year or may be more frequent depending on treatment needs. Routine treatment such as general dental care, orthodontics, speech therapy and pediatric care can usually be provided by professionals in your local community who can maintain regular contact with team members.

**Where can I view Team Listings?** ACPA Approved Teams are listed on the ACPA Family Services website. Visit <https://cleftline.org/find-a-team> to view the teams.

**What should I think about as I select a team?** All professionals on a team should be fully trained in their specialty areas and appropriately certified and licensed. This is critical since it may impact insurance coverage and the quality of care. Also consider the experience of team members and ask how often the team meets and how many patients are seen on each team clinic day.

**Is there a team near me?** You can search for teams by state or zip code on <https://cleftline.org/find-a-team>. When considering teams, please note that insurance funding often requires patients to access treatment in their state of residence.

**What does it mean if a team isn't approved?** It may mean that the team either has not applied or that the team does not meet the minimum requirements for approval. There is no judgment or statement of quality made about established teams that have not elected to apply for approval; nor is holding approval required in order for health care professionals to organize and advertise themselves as a team.

**How are International Teams listed?** Although ACPA Team Approval does not extend beyond teams outside of the U.S. and Canada, the website also lists teams from around the world as a resource for patients and families.

**What does CPT and CFT stand for?** Cleft Palate Teams (CPT) treat individuals with cleft lip and/or cleft palate. Craniofacial Teams (CFT) perform transcranial procedures.



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