



**NATIONAL MODEL ACT FOR
LICENSING OR CERTIFICATION
OF DENTAL THERAPISTS**

Evidence-based policies for licensing or certification of Dental Therapists based on emerging national standards for the profession.

**STANDARDIZING DENTAL
THERAPY
DEVELOPING CONSISTENCY
AMONG THE STATES**

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National Dental Therapy Standard's

Consortium, January 9, 2019



WHY?

- A Need for National Consistency and Establish Standards
- To Address the Nationwide Crisis of Lack of Access to Affordable Care
- A Growing Interest in the Expansion of Dental Therapy
- To Build on the 2015 Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs
- Early Adopters Face Differing Programs Inconsistent with CODA Standards
- Prepare the foundations to Eliminate or Reduce Jurisdiction Limitations



Guiding Principles

- Increase access to oral health services for underserved populations
- Improve oral health of underserved populations
- Improve health equity and achieve greater diversity of the oral health workforce
- Provide for safe, high quality oral health services
- Control the cost of health care services
- Control the cost of oral health education and reduce barriers to entry to the profession, especially for people from underserved populations



Recommended National Model Act Legislative Language

- Dental therapist means an individual licensed under this chapter to provide the dental therapy services set forth in section A(5)
- Add dental therapist representation to state Boards of Dentistry
- Allows for licensing through clinical examination of an approved regional or national dental testing service or approved by the Board
- Approved dental therapy treatment performed under the general supervision of a state licensed dentist with a written collaborative agreement
- A therapist may supervise one or more dental assistants
- Acceptable licensing titles may include: dental therapist, dental health aide therapist or comparable profession in another state or tribal jurisdiction



Scope of Dental Therapy Practice

- All the services for which education is provided by accredited dental therapy education programs under the Commission on Dental Accreditation's accreditation standards for dental therapy education programs;
- Oral examination, evaluation, diagnosis and treatment planning for conditions and services that are within the dental therapist's scope of practice and education;
- Any of the following services if a dental therapist's education program or post-graduation education included education on the provision of the service



Services Provided A(5)

- Evaluation of radiographic images
- Administration of nitrous oxide
- Placement and removal of intraoral sutures
- Pulpotomy on primary teeth
- Fabrication of soft occlusal guards;
- Tooth reimplantation and stabilization;
- Recementing permanent crowns;
- Simple extractions of periodontally diseased permanent teeth with mobility of +3 or +4.
- Other related services and functions for which the dental therapist has education and training; and other services authorized by the board in rule



Other Provisions

- Services rendered are Medicaid billable if under the supervision of a dentist enrolled in the Medicaid program as a dental provider
- Recommend policy changes for FQHC and Rural Health Clinics to utilize dental therapists without losses or financial disincentives



References

- *“Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs.” American Dental Association. Commission on Dental Accreditation, February 2015.*
<http://www.ada.org/~media/CODA/Files/dt.pdf>
- *“Research & Commentary: New Study Demonstrates Effectiveness of Dental Therapists.” Glans, Matthew. The Heartland Institute, August 2017.*
<https://www.heartland.org/publications-resources/publications/research-commentary-new-study-demonstrates-effectiveness-of-dental-therapists>
- <https://www.dentaltherapy.org/resources>