

DENTAL THERAPIST SCOPE OF PRACTICE

According to Minnesota 2009 Session Laws, Chapter 95, Article 3, Subd. 4, the scope of practice for a Dental Therapist includes the following:

(a) A licensed dental therapist may perform dental services as authorized under this section within the parameters of the collaborative management agreement.

(b) The services authorized to be performed by a licensed dental therapist include the oral health services, as specified in paragraphs (c) and (d), and within the parameters of the collaborative management agreement.

(c) A licensed dental therapist may perform the following services under general supervision, unless restricted or prohibited in the collaborative management agreement:

- (1) oral health instruction and disease prevention education, including nutritional counseling and dietary analysis;
- (2) preliminary charting of the oral cavity;
- (3) making radiographs;
- (4) mechanical polishing;
- (5) application of topical preventive or prophylactic agents, including fluoride varnishes and pit and fissure sealants;
- (6) pulp vitality testing;
- (7) application of desensitizing medication or resin;
- (8) fabrication of athletic mouthguards;
- (9) placement of temporary restorations;
- (10) fabrication of soft occlusal guards;
- (11) tissue conditioning and soft relines;
- (12) atraumatic restorative therapy;
- (13) dressing changes;
- (14) tooth reimplantation;
- (15) administration of local anesthetic; and
- (16) administration of nitrous oxide.

(d) A licensed dental therapist may perform the following services under indirect supervision:

- (1) emergency palliative treatment of dental pain;
- (2) the placement and removal of space maintainers;
- (3) cavity preparation;
- (4) restoration of primary and permanent teeth;
- (5) placement of temporary crowns;
- (6) preparation and placement of preformed crowns; and

- (7) pulpotomies on primary teeth;
- (8) indirect and direct pulp capping on primary and permanent teeth;
- (9) stabilization of reimplanted teeth;
- (10) extractions of primary teeth;
- (11) suture removal;
- (12) brush biopsies;
- (13) repair of defective prosthetic devices; and
- (14) recementing of permanent crowns.

(e) For purposes of this section and section 150A.106, "general supervision" and "indirect supervision" have the meanings given in Minnesota Rules, part 3100.0100, subpart 21.

Subd. 5. Dispensing authority.

(a) A licensed dental therapist may dispense and administer the following drugs within the parameters of the collaborative management agreement and within the scope of practice of the dental therapist: analgesics, anti-inflammatories, and antibiotics.

(b) The authority to dispense and administer shall extend only to the categories of drugs identified in this subdivision, and may be further limited by the collaborative management agreement.

(c) The authority to dispense includes the authority to dispense sample drugs within the categories identified in this subdivision if dispensing is permitted by the collaborative management agreement.

(d) A licensed dental therapist is prohibited from dispensing or administering a narcotic drug as defined in section 152.01, subdivision 10.

Subd. 6. Application of other laws. A licensed dental therapist authorized to practice under this chapter is not in violation of section 150A.05 as it relates to the unauthorized practice of dentistry if the practice is authorized under this chapter and is within the parameters of the collaborative management agreement.

Subd. 7. Use of dental assistants.

(a) A licensed dental therapist may supervise dental assistants to the extent permitted in the collaborative management agreement and according to section 150A.10, subdivision 2.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a licensed dental therapist is limited to supervising no more than four registered dental assistants or nonregistered dental assistants at any one practice setting.