

## Advanced Dental Therapist

### I. KIND AND LEVEL OF WORK

Advanced level professional dental practitioner providing evaluative, preventive, restorative and minor surgical dental care within their scope of practice.

### II. DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

An employee in this class promotes advanced dental health and independently carries out treatments that have been prescribed by a registered dentist. The scope of practice includes fillings, applying fluoride, taking x-rays, performing oral evaluations, assessing dental disease, and other dental services.

Advanced Dental Therapists, with their advanced training and clinical practice, are able to provide all the services that a Dental Therapist provides plus additional services such as oral evaluation and assessment, treatment plan formulation, non-surgical extraction of certain diseased teeth, and more. Advanced Dental Therapists practice under general\* supervision of a licensed dentist, but the dentist does not need to see the patient prior to them receiving care or be on site during a procedure. In contract, Dental Therapists practice under both indirect\* and general supervision.

Examples of procedures that an Advanced Dental Therapist performs under general supervision include preparing cavities, placing temporary crowns, and removing sutures. A Dental Therapist performs all these procedures under indirect supervision.

*\*\*Indirect supervision*" means the dentist is in the office, authorizes the procedures, and remains in the office while the procedures are being performed by the allied dental personnel.

*\*\*General supervision*" means the supervision of tasks or procedures that do not require the presence of the dentist in the office or on the premises at the time the tasks or procedures are being performed but require the tasks be performed with the prior knowledge and consent of the dentist.

### III. EXAMPLES OF WORK/DUTIES

*(A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)*

- Provide dental care within the scope of practice described by the Board of Dentistry in section 150A.106 of the Minnesota statutes.
- Perform emergency and continuing care examinations for dental patients.
- Under general supervision of the dentist:
  - Prepare cavities;
  - Restore primary and permanent teeth;
  - Extract primary teeth; and
  - Recement permanent crowns.
- Provide nonsurgical extraction of periodontally diseased permanent teeth with tooth mobility of +3 to +4, not including teeth that are unerupted, impacted, fractures, or need sectioning.
- Conduct oral evaluation and assessment of dental disease, and formulate an individualized treatment plan.

- Make appropriate referrals to dentists, physicians and other practitioners in consultation with the collaborating dentist.
- Provide, dispense and administer analgesics, anti-inflammatories and antibiotics within the scope of practice and the parameters of the collaborative management agreement.
- Provide technical support, clinical assistance/collaboration, and supervision to up to four (4) dental assistants.

#### **IV. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES**

Knowledge of:

- Dental disease processes.
- Developmental disabilities/intellectual disabilities, severe mental health issues, traumatic brain injury and associated problems as determined by patient population.

Ability to:

- Modify and adapt dental treatments to provide tailored dentistry.
- Problem-solve with the assistance and communication from other staff such as the Director of Clinical Operations, Supervising Dentist, other medical staff, and case managers.

Skill in:

- Diagnosing and treating a wide variety of dental diseases and injuries.

### **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION/STATUTORY REFERENCES**

- Degree in Advanced Dental Therapy.
- Licensed as a Dental Therapist by the Minnesota Board of Dentistry plus certification as an Advanced Dental Therapist; current, active without restrictions.

### **SPECIAL WORK CONDITIONS**

None

### **REFERENCES**

[MN Dept of Health Dental Therapy Toolkit](#)

### **REVISION HISTORY**

Established 05/2024