

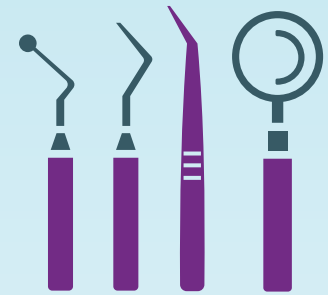
# Dental Therapy: Scope of Practice



## WHAT CAN DENTAL THERAPISTS DO?

Dental therapists can perform the most commonly needed preventive and restorative dental care services (not an exhaustive list):

- ✓ ORAL ASSESSMENTS AND TREATMENT PLANS
- ✓ PROPHYLAXES, FLUORIDE AND SEALANTS
- ✓ CAVITY PREPARATION and amalgam or composite restorations
- ✓ EMERGENCY PALLIATIVE TREATMENT
- ✓ SIMPLE EXTRACTIONS\* of primary teeth and periodontally diseased permanent teeth
- ✓ PREPARATION AND PLACEMENT OF PREFORMED CROWNS on primary teeth
- ✓ PROVIDE CARE in collaboration with supervising dentist (similar to general supervision)



**Q:** With less training than dentists, is it safe for dental therapists to perform "irreversible procedures"?

**A: YES.** Dental therapists are trained to the same standard as dentists on a smaller number of procedures. Dental therapists are licensed in 50 other countries and states in the U.S. In January 2013 the ADA's Council on Scientific Affairs conducted a systematic review of oral health outcomes produced by dental teams incorporating midlevel providers, finding "the results of a variety of studies indicate that appropriately trained midlevel providers are capable of providing high-quality services, including irreversible procedures such as dental extractions\*and restorative care."

\* Permanent teeth to be extracted must be at least +3 mobile and must not be fractured, impacted, or unerupted.



The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health and the Michigan Primary Care Association are partnering with other statewide organizations to improve oral health and access to dental care in Michigan. To contact us, please email [mdavis@mpca.net](mailto:mdavis@mpca.net) or call (517) 827-0879.