

# Training and Licensure for Dental Therapists



## CODA ACCREDITATION

### ✓ NATIONAL ADA/CODA ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

The skills needed to be a dental therapist in Michigan **REQUIRE GRADUATION** from a college or university that **MEETS CODA STANDARDS**—three academic years, as well as passing a state licensing exam. CODA accreditation means a program has achieved a **NATIONALLY ACCEPTED LEVEL OF SAFETY AND QUALITY**.

### ✓ USING BEST PRACTICES

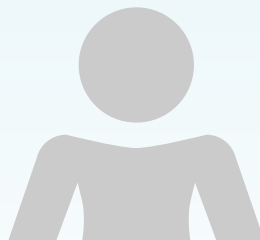
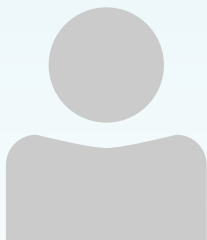
Dental therapy students are held to the **SAME STANDARDS** as those studying to become dentists. They take the **SAME CLASSES** as dental students and must demonstrate the **SAME COMPETENCIES** on the procedures they are trained to provide.

**DENTAL THERAPY LAW** allows educational institutions in Michigan the autonomy to develop **CURRICULUM** and establish entry criteria for students as outlined in CODA's dental therapy **STANDARDS**.

The **MICHIGAN BOARD OF DENTISTRY** will create the board examination and licensure for dental therapists (DTs).

**Q: Do you have to be a dental hygienist to be licensed as a dental therapist?**

**A: NO.** Michigan does not require dual licensure (RDH/DT). Dental therapy is a profession of its own, and although its scope includes patient education and preventive services, it does not include the full scope of dental hygiene. Dual licensure is encouraged for the most versatile version of a dental therapist but is not required.



**CODA**  
Commission on Dental Accreditation



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.