

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: DENTAL THERAPIST

FLSA STATUS: EXEMPT

POSITION SUMMARY:

Promotes general dental health, prevents oral disease and provides disease treatment by performing the duties outlined in this job description. Works under the supervision of a licensed dentist and provides treatments within authorized scope and detailed within the Written Practice Agreement.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Dental therapists work as part of a team, providing clinical treatments in collaboration with the supervising dentist.

Clinical Responsibilities

An dental therapist licensed by the State of Michigan may perform the following services and procedures pursuant to the Written Practice Agreement:

- Identifying oral and systemic conditions that require evaluation or treatment by dentists, physicians, or other health care professionals and managing referrals
- Comprehensive charting of the oral cavity
- Providing oral health instruction and disease prevention education, including nutritional counseling and dietary analysis
- Administering and exposing radiographic images
- Dental prophylaxis including subgingival scaling or polishing procedures
- Dispensing and administering via the oral or topical route nonnarcotic analgesics and anti-inflammatory and antibiotic medications as prescribed by a health care professional
- Applying topical preventative or prophylactic agents, including fluoride varnish, silver diamine fluoride and other fluoride treatments, antimicrobial agents, and pit and fissure sealants
- Pulp vitality testing
- Applying desensitizing medication or resin
- Fabricating athletic mouth guards
- Changing periodontal dressings
- Administering local anesthetic and nitrous oxide analgesia
- Simple extraction of erupted primary teeth
- Emergency palliative treatment of dental pain related to a care or service described in this list
- Preparation and placement of direct restoration in primary and permanent teeth
- Fabrication and placement of single-tooth temporary crowns
- Preparation and placement of preformed crowns on primary teeth
- Indirect and direct pulp capping on permanent teeth
- Indirect pulp capping on primary teeth
- Suturing and suture removal

- Minor adjustments and repairs on removable prostheses
- Placement and removal of space maintainers
- Nonsurgical extractions of periodontally diseased permanent teeth with tooth mobility +3 (may not extract a tooth that is unerupted, impacted, or fractured, or that needs to be sectioned for removal)
- Performing other related services and functions authorized by the supervising dentist and for which the dental therapist is trained
- Performing any other duties of a dental therapist that are authorized by the board by rule

Other

- A dental therapist may supervise 3 or fewer dental assistants and 2 or fewer dental hygienists in any 1 practice setting, to the extent permitted in a written practice agreement
- The dental therapist must work effectively with diverse and multi-cultural staff and patient populations

Qualifications

- Completion of a dental therapy educational program that meets the standards of the Commission on Dental Accreditation
- Current Michigan dental therapy license without restrictions
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret professional journals, technical procedures or governmental regulations
- Ability to fulfill the requirements of travel between facilities
- Demonstrated clinical competence
- The capacity to function independently with limited supervision
- Possess the ability to handle stressful situations calmly and effectively in all situations
- Cultural sensitivity with respect to working with persons and groups of diverse racial, ethnic, economic and social backgrounds.
- Efficient computer skills and experience with electronic records system

Physical Demands

- The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions
- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to use hands to palpate, handle or feel; reach with hands and arms and talk or hear. The employee is frequently required to stand and sit and occasionally required to walk, and must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds