

Michigan Dental Therapy Scope of Practice

Evaluative Procedures

- 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
- Administering and exposing radiographic images
- Pulp vitality testing

Preventative Procedures

- Dental prophylaxis including subgingival scaling or polishing procedures
- Applying topical preventative or prophylactic agents, including fluoride varnish, silver diamine fluoride and other fluoride treatments, antimicrobial agents, and pit and fissure sealants
- Providing oral health instruction and disease prevention education, including nutritional counseling and dietary analysis
- Fabricating athletic mouth guards

Restorative Procedures

- 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

Periodontal and Surgical Procedures

- Changing periodontal dressings
- Suturing and suture removal
- Nonsurgical extractions of periodontally diseased permanent teeth with mobility +3, unless the tooth is unerupted, impacted, fractured, or must be sectioned for removal
- Simple extraction of erupted primary teeth
- Placement and removal of space maintainers

Palliative and Other Procedures

- Minor adjustments and repairs on removable prostheses
- Applying desensitizing medication or resin
- Emergency palliative treatment of dental pain related to a care or service described in this subsection
- Dispensing and administering via the oral or topical route nonnarcotic analgesics and anti-inflammatory and antibiotic medications as prescribed by a health care professional
- Administering local anesthetic and nitrous oxide analgesia
- Performing other related services and functions authorized by the supervising dentist and for which the DT is trained

Michigan Dental Therapy Education and Licensure Requirements

Education Requirements:

- An education program that meets Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) standards
- Three academic years of DT education, including 500 hours of clinical practice under direct supervision of a dentist

Licensure requirements:

- Complete the education requirements above
- Pass a comprehensive didactic examination
- Pass a comprehensive competency-based clinical examination
- Apply for licensure through the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
- Maintain 35 hours of continuing education during each two-year license cycle, including a course in CPR

Michigan Dental Therapy Practice Settings

DTs are permitted to practice within the following settings and populations:

1. Organization Types

- A hospital
- An FQHC
- A school-based health center
- A health center program look-alike
- A health facility operated by a Tribe or Tribal organization
- A correctional facility
- A local health department

2. Locations

- A health setting within a dental HPSA

3. Populations

- Any other clinic or practice setting, including a mobile unit, in which at least 50% of the DT's annual patient base meets any of the following:
 - Enrolled in a health care program administered by DHHS
 - Medical disability or chronic condition that creates a significant barrier to care
 - Dental uninsured with a gross family income equal to or less than 200% FPL

Michigan Dental Therapy Supervision

DDS supervision of DTs: Because DTs are not allied dental professionals, their supervision does not fit into the traditional categories of assignment, general, and direct supervision. Instead, the provision of care by DTs is delegated by a supervising dentist under standing orders as detailed in a Written Practice Agreement (WPA). A DT may work under multiple WPAs and at multiple organizations. A supervising dentist may supervise up to four DTs.

Rule PART 4B. SUPERVISION OF DENTAL THERAPISTS

As used in this part, "supervise" or "supervision" means overseeing or participating in the work of another individual by a health professional licensed under article 15 of the code, MCL 333.16101 to 333.18838, in circumstances where at least all of the following conditions exist:

- a) Continuous availability of direct communication in person or by radio, telephone, or telecommunication between the supervised individual and a health professional licensed in this state.
- b) Availability of a health professional licensed in this state on a regularly scheduled basis to review the practice of the supervised individual, to provide consultation to the supervised individual, to review records, and to further educate the supervised individual in the performance of his or her functions.
- c) The provision by the supervising health professional licensed in this state of predetermined procedures and drug protocol.

DT supervision of DAs/DHs: A DT may supervise up to three dental assistants and two dental hygienists in any one practice setting to the extent permitted in a written practice agreement. The dentist need not be on location while the DT is supervising.

Michigan Dental Therapy Written Practice Agreement

A DT can provide services within their scope as established in a Written Practice Agreement (WPA) held between the DT and their supervising dentist.

A WPA must include the following elements:

- The services and the practice settings and limitations for those services that the DT may provide, along with any limitations
- Any age-specific and procedure-specific practice protocols, including case selection criteria, assessment guidelines, and imaging frequency
- Procedures for obtaining informed consent and creating and maintaining records
- A plan to review patient records by the supervising dentist and the DT
- A plan to manage medical emergencies in each setting where the DT practices
- A quality assurance plan for monitoring care, including patient care review, referral follow-up, and a quality assurance chart review
- Protocols for administering and dispensing medications
- Criteria for providing care to patients with specific medical conditions or complex medical histories, including requirements for consultation before initiating care
- Specific protocols for situations where patients require treatment exceeding the DT's capabilities or scope, including a plan for providing clinical resources and referrals