NEW MODELS OF CARE

THE DENTAL THERAPIST:
A NEW (TO THE U.S.) WORKFORCE MODEL FOR IMPROVING ACCESS

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MISSION

To ensure that Minnesota citizens receive quality dental care from competent dental health professionals.

FUNCTIONS

- Licensing & Registration
- Professional Development
- Complaint Resolution
  - Legislation
  - Rulemaking

PROTECT THE PUBLIC!
HISTORIC EVENTS: MAY 16, 2009

- Manchester United Football (Soccer) Club wins the Premier League season
- Alexander Ryback (Norway) wins the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest
- Ruth Padel becomes the University of Oxford’s first female Professor of Poetry
- Dental Therapists become established in Minnesota Statutes

WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL?
DON’T THEY DO THIS IN EUROPE?

MID-LEVEL DENTAL PROVIDERS
LICENSED DENTAL PROFESSIONALS IN MINNESOTA (2014)

- LDA: 7,312
- DDS: 4,289
- DT: 36
- DH: 5,544

TOTAL REGULATED DENTAL PROFESSIONALS: 17,181

WHAT IS A DENTAL THERAPIST?
- Mid-Level Dental Practitioner
- Provide Services Primarily to Underserved Populations
- Broad Scope of Restorative Practice
  - evaluate oral health status
  - apply topical fluoride/sealants
  - drill & fill teeth
  - extract certain teeth
  - provide palliative care

BOARD’S ROLE/WORK

- PROTECT THE PUBLIC!
  - Clinical Exam Approval
  - DT & DDS Candidates pt-based procedures evaluated at same time.
    - Same standard of care
    - Same scoring criteria
    - Same calibration for examiners
  - DT Exam NOT DDS Exam
  - Statistics are developing
  - Technical report to be published
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

ADVANCED DENTAL THERAPISTS

- Licensed as a DT first
- Certified by the Board— as an ADT
- Masters Degree ADT Educational Program
- 2000 hours of practice
- Certification exam—approved by the Board
- ADT/CMA— reviewed by the Board & kept on file
- Added scope—under General Supervision
  - Oral evaluation and assessment of dental disease and formulation of an individualized treatment plan authorized by collaborating dentist.
  - Non-surgical extractions of permanent teeth - Perio involved Mobility of 3-4
  - Provide, dispense and administer medications - analgesics, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics

USA TODAY

Dental therapists aim to fill in oral health's shortfalls

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Early Impacts of Dental Therapists in Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Board of Dentistry
Report to the Minnesota Legislature 2014
February 2014

Settings where dental therapists are practicing and populations being served. Dental therapists work in a variety of settings. The majority of these settings are in urban underserved areas, but a growing number are located in rural and suburban communities.

Overall, nearly one-third of all patients surveyed experienced a reduction in wait times for an appointment since the dental therapist was employed, with the impact more pronounced in rural areas.

Some patients saw a reduction in travel time for their appointment with the dental therapist compared to their last appointment, again more notably in rural areas.