CODA Accreditation

NATIONAL ADA/CODA ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

In August 2015, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), the ACCREDITING BODY housed within the AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION for DENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, implemented standards for dental therapy education programs. CODA accreditation means a program has achieved a NATIONALLY ACCEPTED LEVEL OF SAFETY AND QUALITY. SB 541 requires students to graduate from a CODA accredited program.

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.

SB 541 allows universities 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 (DT).

Q. Can midlevel providers “drill and fill” directly out of high school?

A. NO

The skills needed to be a dental therapist in Michigan would REQUIRE GRADUATION from a CODA ACCREDITED college or university—three academic years, as well as passing a state licensing exam. Under SB 541 DT’s would be required to complete 500 clinical practice hours under the direct supervision of a dentist.