



ORAL HEALTH IN MICHIGAN

SB 541: Dental Therapy Scope of Practice

What can dental therapists do?

SB 541 would allow dental therapists (DT) to perform the most commonly needed preventive and restorative dental care:



ORAL ASSESSMENTS



TREATMENT PLANS



SIMPLE CAVITY PREPARATION



FILLINGS



SIMPLE EXTRACTIONS of primary and secondary teeth

Q. With less training than a dentist, is it safe for dental therapists to perform “irreversible procedures”?

A. YES!

Dental therapists are trained to the same standard as dentists on a smaller number of procedures. Dental therapists are licensed in 50 other countries and states in the U.S. In January 2013 the ADA’s Council on Scientific Affairs conducted a systematic review of oral health outcomes produced by dental teams incorporating midlevel providers, finding “the results of a variety of studies indicate that appropriately trained midlevel providers are capable of providing high-quality services, including irreversible procedures such as restorative care and dental extractions.”



To learn more about how dental therapists can help provide access to care visit MIDentalAccess.org.

The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health (MCMCH) is partnering with other statewide organizations to improve oral health and access to dental care in Michigan by promoting evidence-based, cost-effective policy solutions. To contact us, please email info@midentalaccess.org or call 517-482-5807.