



## ORAL HEALTH IN MICHIGAN

## SB 541: Training Dental Therapists

### CODA Accreditation

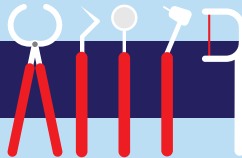
### NATIONAL ADA/CODA ACCREDITED PROGRAMS



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** DTs would be required to complete 500 clinical practice hours under the direct supervision of a dentist.



To learn more about how dental therapists can help provide access to care visit [MIDentalAccess.org](http://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](mailto:info@midentalaccess.org) or call 517-482-5807.