



Dental Therapists Scope of Practice Comparison Chart

Procedure	<i>Alaska Dental Therapist General Supervision</i>	<i>Minnesota Advanced Dental Therapist General Supervision</i>	<i>Minnesota Dental Therapist*</i>	
			<i>General Supervision</i>	<i>Indirect Supervision</i>
Perform preliminary charting of the oral cavity, oral health instruction and disease prevention, including nutritional counseling, dietary analysis	✓	✓	✓	
Apply topical medications including, but not limited to topical fluoride and cavity varnishes in appropriate dosages	✓	✓	✓	
Perform mechanical polishing	✓ i	✓	✓	
Etch appropriate enamel surfaces; apply and adjust pit and fissure sealants	✓	✓	✓	
Placement of temporary restorations	✓	✓	✓	
Fabrication of soft occlusal guards and athletic mouthguards	✓	✓	✓	
Pulp vitality testing	✓	✓	✓	
Administer local anesthesia	✓	✓	✓	
Administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia		✓	✓	
Take radiographs (x-rays)	✓	✓	✓	
Application of desensitizing medication or resin	✓	✓	✓	
Tissue conditioning and soft reline	✓ ii	✓	✓	

*Minnesota's two dental therapy education institutions are now training all dental therapy students to become advanced dental therapists. Dental therapists without advanced practice certification continue to practice in Minnesota, but are offered options to continue training to the advanced level.

Procedure	Alaska Dental Therapist General Supervision	Minnesota Advanced Dental Therapist General Supervision	Minnesota Dental Therapist*	
			General Supervision	Indirect Supervision
Atraumatic restorative therapy	✓	✓	✓	
Tooth reimplantation	✓	✓	✓	
Dressing changes	iii	✓	✓	
Dispense and administer analgesics, anti-inflammatories and antibiotics as permitted by the collaborative management agreement	✓	✓ iv	✓	
Placement and removal of space maintainers	v	✓		✓
Cavity preparation and restoration of primary and permanent teeth	✓	✓		✓
Pulpotomies on primary teeth; indirect and direct pulp capping on primary and permanent teeth	✓	✓		✓
Stabilization of re-implanted teeth	✓	✓		✓
Remove sutures	✓	✓		✓
Brush biopsies	✓	✓		✓
Repair of defective prosthetic devices	✓ vi	✓		✓
Placement of temporary crowns; preparation and placement of preformed crowns	✓	✓		✓
Provide emergency palliative treatment of dental pain	✓	✓		✓
Re-cement permanent crowns	✓	✓		✓
Extractions of primary teeth	✓	✓		✓
Extractions of periodontally-diseased permanent teeth with mobility of +3 to +4 as permitted by the collaborative management agreement. Not to include teeth that are un-erupted, impacted, fractured or that require sectioning	✓ vii	✓		

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Procedure	Alaska Dental Therapist General Supervision	Minnesota Advanced Dental Therapist General Supervision	Minnesota Dental Therapist*	
			General Supervision	Indirect Supervision
Oral evaluation and assessment of dental disease and the formation of an individualized treatment plan authorized by a collaborating dentist	✓ ^{viii}	✓		
Make appropriate referrals to dentists, physicians, and other practitioners in consultation with the collaborating dentist.	✓	✓		

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Kasey Wilson - Policy Analyst, Dental Access Project at Community Catalyst at (202) 587-2833 or kwilson@communitycatalyst.org.

ⁱ Also performs removal of supragingival calculus

ⁱⁱ Not taught at this time, but there is nothing to prohibit a dentist to train a dental therapist in this procedure and allow it to be performed under general supervision

ⁱⁱⁱ Will be taught to dental therapists because this is included in the CODA standards

^{iv} May provide, dispense and administer

^v This is no longer taught in ADTEP because many program dentists no longer perform this procedure. The CHAP Certification Board Standards and Procedures state that Alaska dental therapists should be able to recognize when space maintenance may be needed

^{vi} Removable prosthetic devices

^{vii} No restriction to mobile teeth; can section tooth and extract fractured teeth, but cannot cut tissue or remove bone. Must be approved by dentist supervisor and be deemed an emergency per federal regulations in the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act/Affordable Care Act

^{viii} Does not require authorization of the plan by supervising dentist

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