Supervision and Collaboration

GENERAL SUPERVISION OF A DENTIST

If choosing to hire a dental therapist, the dentist would determine which procedures the DT could and could not perform. A formal COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT, unique to each employing relationship, would be based on skill level, the needs of the practice and their patients.

APPROVED PROCEDURES

Just as physician assistants work as part of a physician-led team, dental therapists can ONLY perform the procedures APPROVED BY THEIR SUPERVISING DENTIST under the collaborative agreement.

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

Components of collaborative agreements include:
Services and procedures allowed, practice settings, plans for MANAGING MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, quality assurance plans for monitoring care such as chart review, PROTOCOLS for administering and dispensing medications, and CRITERIA FOR PROVIDING CARE to patients with complex medical histories.

Q. Who carries the malpractice insurance?

A. BOTH

In states where they currently practice together, BOTH the dental therapist and collaborating dentist CARRY MALPRACTICE INSURANCE which is typically $150-$300 annually.

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.