



DENTAL THERAPISTS: A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROVIDE MORE CARE

Mid-level dental providers cost only about \$0.30 for every dollar they generate. This allows dentists to see more Medicaid patients at existing reimbursement rates.



Minnesota's mid-level providers bring care to where it is needed most.

A solo-practice dentist in rural Minnesota is now taking 38 percent more patients after hiring a dental therapist. **The practice increased the number of Medicaid patients served by 73 percent.**

Dental Therapists free up dentists to do more complicated procedures.

Dental Therapists help make the dental team more efficient. Dental Therapists do a very limited set of commonly needed procedures. When Dental Therapists handle routine procedures, dentists can do the more complicated procedures they went to dental school for. This is good for job satisfaction as well as good for business.

Provider	Education	# Procedures in Scope
General Dentist	Baccalaureate degree + 4 years of dental school TOTAL: 8 years	534+
Dental Therapist – proposed WA model	Training at accredited community or technical college TOTAL: 2 years (3,100 hours)	36 (estimated)
Dental Hygiene Therapist – proposed WA model	Baccalaureate degree TOTAL: 5 years (6,227 hours)	82 (estimated)

Dental therapists will help our communities save money.

- Increasing preventive dental services will **decrease the number of costly, dental-related emergency room visits.**
- The National Bureau of Economic Research noted that **Dental Therapists may be a more cost-effective way to expand dental access than raising Medicaid rates for dentists.**

Join us today in supporting Dental Therapists for Washington.

