



Dental Therapists:

Rigorous Training for Quality Care

Dental therapists (*right*) are highly trained professionals who provide top-quality care. After completing more than 3,000 hours of training and education to earn their degree, they work directly with a supervising dentist to complete an externship of at least 400 hours. By the time they begin practicing, mid-level dental providers have as much clinical experience in the procedures they are certified to perform as a dental school graduate.



The results speak for themselves:

The most comprehensive review ever conducted of mid-level dental providers found that they provide safe, effective care to children worldwide. The review assessed more than 1,000 studies and reports of care provided by dental therapists. Not one cited evidence of poor quality or compromised patient safety.

An independent evaluation found that dental therapists in Alaska provide quality care on a par with dentists for the procedures they are trained to perform.

Since the Alaska and Minnesota programs launched, there have been no adverse patient events and no reports of patient safety being compromised.

“They’ll get actually more training than a dentist does [within] a small scope of practice. I think a dental therapist model could be utilized in any dental office anywhere in the United States.”

—Dr. Mary Williard, DDS