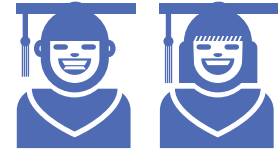


NORTH DAKOTANS FOR DENTAL ACCESS

HB 1256: Educating Dental Therapists

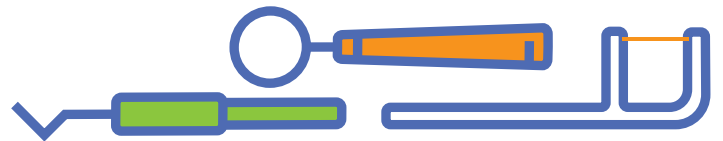
CODA Accreditation



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. HB 1256 requires students to graduate from a CODA accredited program or one of the existing master’s level programs currently accredited by the Minnesota dental board which are currently working toward CODA accreditation (University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and Metropolitan State University/Normandale Community College).

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.

HB 1256 requires that dental therapists pass an exam approved by the NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS in order to be licensed.

Q. Can mid level providers “drill and fill” directly out of high school?

A. NO.

The skills needed to be a dental therapist in North Dakota would REQUIRE GRADUATION from a CODA ACCREDITED college or university—three academic years minimum—or one of the existing master’s level Minnesota programs which are accredited through the Minnesota dental board, PLUS passing a ND-state licensing exam. Under HB 1256 dental therapists would be required to complete 500 clinical practice hours under the direct or indirect supervision of a dentist.