

A METHODOLOGY FOR EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF DENTAL THERAPISTS AND ADVANCED DENTAL THERAPISTS IN MINNESOTA

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Contact Information

Leslie Nordgren, RDH, MPH, PhD
Office of Rural Health and Primary Care
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64882, St. Paul, MN 55164-0882
651-201-3856
leslie.nordgren@state.mn.us

Minnesota



The first of the lower 48 states to license dental therapists

2009 Legislature Authorized Two Types

- **Dental therapist (licensed)**
- **Advanced dental therapist (dual licensure as a dental therapist and dental hygienist with a certificate in advanced dental therapy)**



Services and Supervision

Dental therapist

- Some services under general supervision
- Some services under indirect supervision
- Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA) required

Advanced dental therapist

- Services under general supervision
- CMA required

Evaluation

Session Law in 2009 requires the Board of Dentistry (BOD) in consultation with Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to study the impact of dental therapists:

- **Patient safety**
- **Cost effectiveness**
- **Access to dental services**

Objective

To describe an evaluation methodology for measuring the impact of dental therapists (DT) and advanced dental therapists (ADT) on access to dental services



Five Required Outcome Measures and Methodology

Measure 1

**Number of new patients served by
DT/ADT and by dental clinic**

Data sources:

Clinic data

**Department of Human Services Medicaid
data**

Measure 2

**Reduction in wait time for appointment
for needed services**

Data source:

**Minnesota Department of Health patient
survey questions**

Measure 3

Decreased travel time for patients

Data source:

**Minnesota Department of Health patient
survey questions**

Measure 4

Impact on emergency room utilization for dental reasons

Data sources:

Minnesota Department of Health patient survey questionnaire

Department of Human Services

Hospital emergency room data

Measure 5

Costs to the public health care system

Data source:

Department of Human Services data

Additional data collected:

- Number and distribution of DTs/ADTs - BOD
- Settings where DTs and ADTs are practicing - BOD
- Number of complaints or disciplinary actions filed - BOD
- The number and type of dental services provided - DHS

Data Collected – Not Required

- Public transportation for the patient? MDH survey
- Did patient attempt to get a dental appointment at another clinic? MDH survey

Timeline

June 2012 Collect Data June 2013

June 2013 Analysis & Writing October 2014

October 2013 Submit Report January 2014

First Cohort of DT/ADT



Metropolitan State University
Advanced Dental Therapists



University of Minnesota
Dental Therapists

Questions?



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