## Dental Therapy in Minnesota

### Current Practitioners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Practitioners¹</th>
<th>18 licensed DTs</th>
<th>9 licensed DTs, 3 of them have been certified as ADT’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Number Practicing

- **1st Cohort:** 8 (7 full time, 1 part time)
- **2nd Cohort:** 5 (3 full time, 2 part time)

### Practice Locations

- Community Clinic Setting: 6
- University Clinic Setting: 4
- Private Practice: 4
- Note: 3 DTs practice in Greater Minnesota

### Salary / Wage

- Varied
- About $38-$45 per hour; a slight increase is expected upon ADT certification

### Program Timeframe

- 28 months – Beginning in the fall and graduating in December, full time
- 26 months – Beginning in the fall and graduating the second summer following the start of the program

### Degree Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dental Therapist (DT) University of Minnesota</th>
<th>Advanced Dental Therapist (ADT) Metropolitan State University / Normandale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Science in Dental Therapy (BSDT) – for students who have completed at least one year of prerequisite college course work²</td>
<td>Master’s of Science in Advanced Dental Therapy – for students who have completed a Baccalaureate degree and are a licensed dental hygienist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters of Dental Therapy (MDT) – for students who have already completed a Baccalaureate degree</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Class Size

- Up to 10 students
- Target 12 students

### Graduated Students

- 8 out of 9 students in the first cohort graduated in December 2011 (1 BSDT and 7 MDT). One MDT student graduated in May, 2012.
- The second cohort of 9 students graduated in December 2012 (4 BSDT and 5 MDT).

### Upcoming Cohorts

- The third cohort of 9 students began in September 2011 (graduating December 2013).
- The fourth cohort of 9 students began in September of 2012.
- The fifth cohort of 6 students will begin in September of 2013 (smaller class size due to program modifications)
- The first cohort 7 students graduated in June 2011. Three have credentialed as ADT’s.
- The second cohort of 4 students graduated in April 2013.

### Tuition and Fees

- Minnesota Resident:
  - $72,500 BSDT* / $79,200 MDT
  - Non-Resident:
    - $91,200 BSDT* / $109,200 MDT
- Minnesota and Non-Resident:
  - $35,000-$36,000

### Curriculum

- Integrated into the School of Dentistry, learning with dental and hygiene students in shared courses and clinics.
- *Beginning Fall of 2013, the curriculum will change and cohorts will graduate with the necessary requirements to become a certified ADT. The BSDT degree will not be offered.*

### Footnotes

¹ Data and information is self-reported from the respective academic programs.

² The U of M program is seeking Minnesota Board of Dentistry program approval for their graduates to be eligible for Advanced Dental Therapy certification. There will not be a pre-requisite of an active hygiene license.
Dental Therapy versus Advanced Dental Therapy

I. Licensing and Certification
To be licensed as a dental therapist, a person must:
- Graduate with a baccalaureate or masters degree from an approved dental therapy education program;
- Pass a comprehensive, competency based clinical exam;
- Pass a jurisprudence exam; and
- Submit an application and fee for licensure as prescribed by the Minnesota Board of Dentistry.
To be a certified advanced dental therapist, a person must:
- Be a licensed dental therapist;
- Complete 2,000 hours of the practice of dental therapy under direct or indirect (on-site) supervision;
- Graduate from a master’s advanced dental therapy education program;
- Pass an examination that demonstrates competency; and
- Submit an application for certification as prescribed by the Minnesota Board of Dentistry.

II. Collaborative Management Agreements (CMA)
Prior to performing any services, a dental therapist and an advanced dental therapist must enter into a written collaborative management agreement (CMA) with a licensed, Minnesota dentist. A dentist may have a CMA with no more than five dental therapists or advanced dental therapists at a given time. The CMA can include limitations on services provided or supervision required as determined by the collaborating dentist. Also, the collaborating dentist accepts responsibility for all services authorized and performed by the DT or ADT pursuant to the CMA.

III. Scope of Practice (general and indirect supervision)
Scope of Practice for a Dental Therapist
General Supervision (i.e. dentist may not be present)
1. Oral health instruction and disease prevention education, including nutritional counseling and dietary analysis
2. Preliminary charting of the oral cavity
3. Making radiographs
4. Mechanical polishing;
5. Application of topical preventive or prophylactic agents, including fluoride varnishes and pit and fissure sealants
6. Pulp vitality testing
7. Application of desensitizing medication or resin
8. Fabrication of athletic mouthguards
9. Placement of temporary restorations
10. Fabrication of soft occlusal guards
11. Tissue conditioning and soft reline
12. Atraumatic restorative therapy;
13. Dressing changes
14. Tooth reimplantation
15. Administration of local anesthetic
16. Administration of nitrous oxide

Indirect Supervision (i.e. dentist onsite)
1. Emergency palliative treatment of dental pain
2. The placement and removal of space maintainers
3. Cavity preparation
4. Restoration of primary and permanent teeth
5. Placement of temporary crowns
6. Preparation and placement of preformed crowns
7. Pulpotomies on primary teeth
8. Indirect and direct pulp capping on primary and permanent teeth
9. Stabilization of reimplanted teeth
10. Extractions of primary teeth
11. Suture removal
12. Brush biopsies
13. Repair of defective prosthetic devices
14. Recementing of permanent crowns
Other authorizations and their limitations for licensed dental therapists are:

1. Dispense and administer the following drugs within the parameters of the collaborative management agreement: analgesics, anti-inflammatories, and antibiotics. The authority to dispense includes the authority to dispense sample drugs within those categories. Dispensing or administering a narcotic drug is explicitly prohibited.
2. Supervise up to but no more than four licensed dental assistants or nonregistered dental assistants in any one practice setting to the extent permitted by the collaborative management agreement.

**Scope of Practice for an Advanced Dental Therapist**

**General Supervision (Note: no indirect supervision necessary for ADT)**

1. An oral evaluation and assessment of dental disease and the formulation of an individualized treatment plan authorized by the collaborating dentist;
2. All services and procedures authorized for a licensed dental therapist; and
3. Nonsurgical extraction of periodontally diseased permanent teeth with tooth mobility of +3 to +4 under general supervision, if authorized in advance by the collaborating dentist. The advanced dental therapist shall not extract a tooth for any patient if the tooth is unerupted, impacted, fractured, or needs to be sectioned for removal.

Other authorizations and limitations for certified advanced dental therapists are:

1. No service or procedure allowed for an advanced dental therapist may be provided except as authorized by the collaborating dentist.
2. The collaborating dentist is responsible for directly providing or arranging for another dentist or specialist to provide any necessary advanced services needed by the patient.
3. An advanced dental therapist in accordance with the collaborative management agreement must refer patients to another qualified dental or health care professional to receive any needed services that exceed the scope or practice of the advanced dental therapist.
4. An advanced dental therapist may provide, dispense and administer the following drugs within the parameters of the collaborative management agreement: analgesics, anti-inflammatories, and antibiotics. The authority to dispense includes the authority to dispense sample drugs within those categories if permitted by the collaborative management agreement. Providing, dispensing or administering a narcotic drug is explicitly prohibited.

**IV. Practice settings**

A dental therapist or advanced dental therapist is limited to primarily practicing (about 50%) in settings that serve low-income, uninsured and underserved patients or in a dental health professional shortage area.

**V. Education / Curriculum**

**Dental Therapy – University of Minnesota School of Dentistry**

- Semesters 1, 2 and 3 are pre-clinical and lecture-based, including 6 courses with dental hygiene students, 9 courses with dental students, and 5 courses with all three groups of students learning together.
- In Semesters 4 and 5, students continue to complete didactic courses and begin working with patients in the School of Dentistry clinics.
- Semesters 6 and 7 are strictly clinical. DT students work alongside dental and hygiene students in the school’s clinics and at outreach placement sites.
- Masters of Dental Therapy students complete an emphasis on leadership, education or public health

**Advanced Dental Therapy – Metropolitan State University / Normandale Community College**

- ADT students are required to be a licensed dental hygienist and have a Baccalaureate degree.
- There are 4 interdisciplinary, didactic courses that can be taken anytime throughout the program. The ADT students join nursing students for these courses.
- The competency-based courses are taught in a sequence for ADT students only. They are all taught by a licensed dentist and include lab and clinic time.
- Students may apply for a resident dental therapy license and travel to clinical sites throughout the metropolitan area. They typically acquire 250-300 clinical hours that count toward their 2,000 hours required to take the ADT exam.