

Dental therapists (DTs) and advanced dental therapists (ADTs)

DTs and ADTs are licensed oral health professionals who practice as part of a dental team and who can provide primary dental care, including both preventive and restorative dental services. The field they work in, dental therapy, was designed to increase access to dental care in rural and underserved areas in Minnesota. DTs and ADTs allow dentists to focus on complex oral health issues while ensuring their dental practices can continue to see the full scope of patients.

Dental therapy toolkit

Because it is a relatively new field, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) developed a [dental therapy toolkit](http://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/emerging/dt/docs/2017dttool.pdf) (www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/emerging/dt/docs/2017dttool.pdf) to help educate potential employers about dental therapy and the benefits of hiring DTs/ADTs. The toolkit also provides tips for hiring and integrating DTs and ADTs into the dental team. Other key elements of the toolkit include information about the following:

- Regulations and scope of practice
- Education and training
- Supervision requirements
- Insurance and billing
- Successful dental therapy models
- Effects of dental therapists on patients and practice finances
- Integrating dental therapy into new care models

PrimeWest Health

PrimeWest Health credentials and enrolls DTs and ADTs. We require that claims submitted for payment for services provided by a DT or ADT list the National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the DT or ADT as the rendering provider, as reflected in the MDH toolkit.

More Information

If you would like more information about integrating a DT or ADT into your practice or would like help connecting with a dental practice that employs a DT or ADT, please contact:

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