



# Dental Therapy

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# Legislation Overview

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- HB 2235 - dental therapy; regulation; licensure
- Laws 2018, Chapter 296
- Sponsor: Rep. Thorpe (R), Legislative District 6
- General Effective Date: **August 3, 2018**

# Legislation Overview

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- Adds/Updates Definitions
- Describes acts of unprofessional conduct
- Updates Dental Board requirements
- Provides for licensure exemptions
- Updates grounds for disciplinary action
- Outlines Scope of Practice, Practice Settings, and other requirements for Dental Therapists
- Requires ADHS/Dental Board to report within three years of board licensure readiness

# What is a Dental Therapist?

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- Pursuant to A.R.S. 32-1201(9):

A **Dental Therapist** means any person who is licensed and engaged in the general practice of dental therapy and all related and associated duties, including educational, clinical and therapeutic dental therapy procedures.

# License and Education Requirements

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Requires the Dental Board to:

- Establish a uniform and reasonable standard of minimum educational requirements consistent with the accreditation standards of the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation
- Issue licenses to persons who the board determines are eligible for licensure

# License and Education Requirements

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- Specific education and training provided through a “Recognized Dental Therapy School”
- Pursuant to A.R.S. 32-1201(21):

A **Recognized Dental Therapy School** means a school that is accredited or that has received initial accreditation by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

# Licensure Exemptions

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- Officially employed in the service of the United States and servicing persons who are enlisted in, directly connected with, or under the immediate control of some branch of service of the United States
- In the discharge of official duties on behalf of the U.S. Govt., including the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Public Health Service and the Indian Health Service
- While employed by tribal health programs authorized pursuant to public law 93-638 or Urban Indian Health programs

# Practice Settings

- Dental therapists may practice under the direct supervision of a dentist or pursuant to a written collaborative practice agreement.
- Practice settings include:
  - FQHC & FQHC look-alike programs
  - Community Health Centers
  - Nonprofit dental practice or a nonprofit organization that provides dental care to low-income and underserved individuals
  - A private dental practice that provides dental care for community health center patients of record who are referred by the community health center
  - Mobile units
  - I.H.S., 638, and Urban facilities



# Dental Therapy Services

- Pursuant to A.R.S. 32-1276.03, Dental Therapy includes approximately 30 services
- Service categories:
  - Diagnostic
  - Preventive
  - Restorative
  - Surgical
  - Other/adjunct services

# AHCCCS Implementation

- Provider Registration
  - **Issue:** Specific provider type must be developed
- Policy and Contract
  - **Issue:** Policy and contract language must be developed
- Fee Schedule
  - **Issue:** Specific fee schedule must be developed
- State Plan Amendment
  - **Issue:** Contingent on registration, policy/contract, and fee schedule development
- Stakeholder Communication and Engagement
  - Tribal Consultation
  - Formal public comment process through policy development

# AHCCCS Implementation

- AHCCCS implementation possible for 2019
- What's Next?
  - Stakeholder Feedback Needed
    - Identify and communicate any Dental Therapists ready to practice in Arizona to inform implementation timeline
  - Dental Board Implementation
    - License required through AHCCCS provider registration as a condition of participation
    - No CODA accredited programs nationally

# Questions?



Thank You.

