

The Kansas Dental Project



Key Components of Proposed RDP Legislation

Qualifications:

- Be a licensed dental hygienist who is also a graduate of a registered dental practitioner program.
- Pass a comprehensive, competency-based clinical examination that is approved by the board and administered independently of an institution providing registered dental practitioner education.
- Obtain a policy of professional liability insurance and show proof of such insurance as required by rules and regulations.

Supervision:

- Registered Dental Practitioners will work under the supervision of a dentist.
- The supervising dentist will decide the level of supervision: Direct or General.
- An RDP must work under direct supervision for at least 500 hours before working under general supervision.
- The dentist and RDP will have a written supervision agreement, including written protocols detailing the scope of practice the dentist authorizes the RDP to practice.

Direct Supervision means that the dentist is in the dental office, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedure and before dismissal of the patient evaluates the performance

General Supervision means the supervision of tasks or procedures without the presence of the dentist in the office or on the premises at the time the tasks or procedures are being performed, and pursuant to a written supervising agreement, so long as those tasks and procedures are within the scope of practice for a registered dental practitioner.

Scope of Practice:

- Developed by dental professionals.
- Designed to equip RDPs with the skills necessary to provide treatment.
- Always subject to the limitations set by the supervising dentist through the written supervision agreement.

Practice Locations:

- Federally Designated Professional Workforce Shortage Areas
- Indigent Health Care Clinics
- Nursing Homes
- Head Start
- Federal and State Correctional Institutions
- ECP I and ECP II practice locations
- Private Practices (at least 20% of revenues from Medicaid) Outside Workforce Shortage Areas
- Other areas or sites where the Board determines the RDPs will improve access

Current Status of Legislation

During the 2011 Legislative Session, identical bills were introduced in the House and Senate (HB 2280 and SB 192). Each bill received a committee hearing and remains in committee for further discussion during the 2012 Legislative Session.



Registered Dental Practitioner

Scope of Practice

- Oral health instruction and disease prevention education, including nutritional counseling and dietary analysis
- Preliminary charting of the oral cavity
- Making radiographs
- Dental prophylaxis (mechanical polishing)
- Application of topical preventative or prophylactic agents, including fluoride varnishes and pit and fissure sealants
- Pulp vitality testing
- Application of desensitizing medication or resin
- Fabrication of athletic mouthguards
- Placement of temporary restorations
- Fabrication of soft occlusal guards
- Tissue conditioning and soft reline
- Atraumatic restorative therapy
- Dressing changes
- Tooth reimplantation and stabilization
- Administration of local anesthetic
- Administration of nitrous oxide
- Diagnosis of oral disease
- The formulation of an individualized treatment plan
- Extractions of primary teeth
- Nonsurgical extractions of periodontally diseased permanent teeth with tooth mobility of +3 or +4. The registered dental practitioner shall not extract a tooth for any patient if the tooth is unerupted, impacted, fractured, or needs to be sectioned for removal.
- Emergency palliative treatment of dental pain
- The placement and removal of space maintainers
- Cavity preparation
- Restoration of primary and permanent teeth
- Placement of temporary crowns
- Preparation and placement of preformed crowns
- Pulpotomies on primary teeth
- Indirect and direct pulp capping on primary and permanent teeth
- Suture removal
- Brush biopsies
- Simple repairs and adjustments for patients with removable prosthetic appliances
- Recementing of permanent crowns
- Prevent potential orthodontic problems by early identification and appropriate referral
- Prevent, identify, and manage dental and medical emergencies and maintain current basic life support certification