

The Oral Health Practitioner (OHP) Workgroup in Minnesota held its final meeting on October 5, 2008. The workgroup, which consists of 13 stakeholders, was created as a result of the OHP compromise legislation and were tasked with making recommendations defining the scope, supervision, and education of the provider. The Minnesota Department of Health drafted a report based upon the Workgroup's recommendations and will submit draft legislation reflecting the recommendations to the state legislature by January 15, 2009.

The following workgroup recommendations reflect a combination of consensus decisions and a majority vote in the case where consensus was not reached.

- 50% of the services of the OHP must be provided to low-income, uninsured, or underserved patient populations.
- The Board of Dentistry has the authority to approve OHP training programs and licensure testing. Both Metropolitan State University of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system (MnSCU) and the University of Minnesota have indicated they are able to meet the necessary educational requirements.
- The OHP scope of practice includes primary diagnostic, educational, palliative, therapeutic, restorative, simple extractions and prescriptive authority. The majority of these services may be performed under general supervision pursuant to a collaborative management agreement with a Minnesota licensed dentist.
- OHPs may supervise up to four registered dental assistants.

For more information on the work group and its recommendations, please visit the OHP website:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/oralhealth/index.html>.