

In February 2008, the Minnesota Dental Hygienists' Association and the Minnesota Safety Net Coalition introduced legislation in the state legislature to establish an Advanced Practice Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP). This was the first legislation of its kind to be introduced in the United States. Since that time, the legislation has generated a great deal of support among legislators and third party organizations committed to increasing access to care.

The bill went through a number of changes as it progressed through the legislative process. One significant variation of the original ADHP bill was an amendment to become a pilot project in which 15 mid-level practitioners would enter into practice in 2011 and an additional 15 in 2012. Additionally, the name of the provider changed from ADHP to Oral Health Practitioner (OHP). In mid-April, the sponsors of the bill met with the various stakeholders and devised a compromise proposal that would establish an OHP in statute and convene a workgroup to make recommendations defining the scope, supervision, and education of the provider. The compromise language overwhelming passed through the legislature and was signed into law on May 12, 2008.

The law codifies that the OHP will be a licensed, educated provider who works with a Minnesota licensed dentist via a collaborative management agreement - building off the current collaborative practice agreements currently in place in Minnesota. The OHP must be a graduate of an oral health practitioner education program that is accredited by CODA or another national accreditation organization and pass a board approved competency-based clinical examination that is independent of the education program. Additionally, the law stipulates that OHPs must practice in underserved areas and cannot begin lawful practice prior to 2011.

The scope of practice the workgroup is directed to design for the provider includes: primary diagnostic, educational, palliative, therapeutic, restorative, simple extractions and prescriptive authority.

The workgroup will be populated by the various stakeholders including representatives from Metropolitan State University, the University of Minnesota, MDHA, MDA, the state board of dentistry, Safety Net Coalition, and several other dentists representing various public health and special interest groups as well as two state agency representatives. In sum, the workgroup will be populated by 13 people—7 of which must be dentists, 2 of which must be dental hygienists, 2 of which will be state government employees, and the remaining 2 are at the discretion of the groups assigned to appoint them. The majority of dentists on the workgroup will have to have specific public health experience. The workgroup is charged with completing its work by December 15, 2008 and draft legislation to enact specific recommendations will be required by January 15, 2009.

Side-by-Side Comparison of the OHP and ADHP Models.

	Oral Health Practitioner	ADHP
Stage of Development	In 2008, the Oral Health Practitioner was established in Minnesota statute. A work group will convene in fall of 2008 to recommend and propose legislation for the level of education and regulation.	Competencies were finalized in 2008. Research regarding pilot programs underway.
Certification/License	Credentialed and state licensed	Credentialed and state licensed.
Education/Training	To be determined by the workgroup, graduate of an accredited program.	18-24 months at the Masters Degree level, in addition to Bachelors degree in dental hygiene or other applicable area
Proposed Preventive Scope	Advanced preventive therapies in addition to existing dental hygiene duties	Advanced preventive therapies in addition to existing dental hygiene duties
Proposed Restorative Scope	Temporary restorations, palliative temporization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation of cavities and restoration of primary and permanent teeth using direct placement of appropriate dental materials • temporary placement of crowns and restorations • placement of preformed crowns • pulpotomies on primary teeth • direct and indirect pulp capping in primary and permanent teeth • placing and removing sutures providing reparative services to patients with defective prosthetic appliances. 	Temporary restorations, palliative temporization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation of cavities and restoration of primary and permanent teeth using direct placement of appropriate dental materials • temporary placement of crowns and restorations • placement of preformed crowns • pulpotomies on primary teeth; • direct and indirect pulp capping in primary and permanent teeth • placing and removing sutures • providing reparative services to patients with defective prosthetic appliances;
Other Relevant Scope	Primary diagnostic,	Primary diagnostic,

	<p>uncomplicated extractions and prescriptive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extractions of primary and permanent teeth • medications for anti-infective therapies, nonnarcotic pain management, and prevention 	<p>uncomplicated extractions and prescriptive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extractions of primary and permanent teeth • medications for anti-infective therapies, nonnarcotic pain management, and prevention • evidence-based diagnostic services to identify oral diseases and conditions
Proposed Settings	Public health settings and community centers	Public health settings, community health centers, possibly private practice
Proposed Supervision	To be determined by workgroup, pursuant to a collaborative management agreement – building off the current collaborative practice agreements currently in place in Minnesota	Collaborative arrangement envisioned with strong referral networks

Full text of the bill is available by clicking the following link, <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=S2942.3.html&session=1s85>. Scroll down to Section 26.

For more information on the OHP efforts in Minnesota, please contact the ADHA Governmental Affairs Department at (312) 440-8925 or by email at gov.affairs@adha.net. Additional information is also available on the Minnesota Dental Hygienists' Association website: <http://www.mndha.com>.