

NEVADA STATE BOARD  
of  
DENTAL EXAMINERS



COMMITTEE ON DENTAL HYGIENE &  
DENTAL THERAPY & SUBCOMMITTEE  
TELECONFERENCE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

6:00 P.M.

**PUBLIC BOOK**

**Agenda Item (4)(a):**

**NRS 631.312-3124**

## CHAPTER 631 - DENTISTRY, DENTAL HYGIENE AND DENTAL THERAPY

### **NRS 631.312 Dental therapists: Eligibility to apply for license. [Effective January 1, 2020.]**

1. Any person is eligible to apply for a license to practice dental therapy in this State who:
  - (a) Is of good moral character;
  - (b) Is over 18 years of age;
  - (c) Is a graduate of a program of dental therapy from an institution which is accredited by a regional educational accrediting organization that is recognized by the United States Department of Education. The program of dental therapy must:
    - (1) Be accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or its successor specialty accrediting organization; and
    - (2) Include a curriculum of not less than 2 years of academic instruction in dental therapy or its academic equivalent; and
  - (d) Is in possession of a current special endorsement of his or her license pursuant to [NRS 631.287](#) to practice public health dental hygiene.
2. To determine whether a person has good moral character, the Board may consider whether his or her license to practice dental therapy or dental hygiene in another state has been suspended or revoked or whether he or she is currently involved in any disciplinary action concerning his or her license in that state.
 

(Added to NRS by [2019, 3199](#), effective January 1, 2020)

### **NRS 631.3121 Dental therapists: Examination; issuance of certificate of registration. [Effective January 1, 2020.]**

1. Any person desiring to obtain a license to practice dental therapy, after having complied with [NRS 631.312](#) and the regulations of the Board to determine eligibility:
  - (a) Except as otherwise provided in [NRS 622.090](#), must pass a written examination given by the Board upon such subjects as the Board deems necessary for the practice of dental therapy or must present a certificate granted by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations which contains a notation that the applicant has passed the applicable national examination with a score of at least 75; and
  - (b) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, must:
    - (1) Successfully pass a clinical examination approved by the Board and the American Board of Dental Examiners; or
    - (2) Present to the Board a certificate granted by the Western Regional Examining Board which contains a notation that the applicant has passed a clinical examination administered by the Western Regional Examining Board.
2. The Board shall examine each applicant in writing on the contents and interpretation of this chapter and the regulations of the Board.
3. All persons who have satisfied the requirements for licensure as a dental therapist must be registered as licensed dental therapists on the board register, as provided in this chapter, and are entitled to receive a certificate of registration, signed by all members of the Board.
 

(Added to NRS by [2019, 3199](#), effective January 1, 2020)

### **NRS 631.3122 Dental therapists: Practice settings; written practice agreement with authorizing dentist required; limitations on provision of services; qualifications of authorizing dentist. [Effective January 1, 2020.]**

1. The holder of a license or renewal certificate to practice dental therapy may practice only in the settings provided in subsection 3, under the authorization of a dentist meeting the requirements of subsection 4 and in accordance with a written practice agreement signed by the dental therapist and the authorizing dentist. A dental therapist may provide only the services that are within his or her scope of practice, the scope of practice of the dentist, are authorized by the dentist, and are provided according to written protocols or standing orders established by the authorizing dentist. A dental therapist may not provide any services that are outside the scope of practice of the authorizing dentist. A dental therapist shall provide such services only under the direct supervision of the authorizing dentist until such time as the dental therapist has obtained the following hours of clinical practice as a dental therapist:
  - (a) Not less than 500 hours, if the dental therapist has a license to practice dental therapy issued pursuant to the laws of another state or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia;

(b) Not less than 1,000 hours, if the dental therapist has practiced dental hygiene pursuant to the laws of this State, another state or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia, for 5 years or more; or

(c) Not less than 1,500 hours, if paragraphs (a) and (b) are not applicable.

2. A dental therapist may provide services to a patient who has not first seen a dentist for an examination if the authorizing dentist has given the dental therapist written authorization and standing protocols for the services and reviews the patient records as provided by the written practice agreement. The standing protocols may require the authorizing dentist to personally examine patients either face-to-face or by the use of electronic means.

3. The holder of a license or renewal certificate to practice dental therapy may practice only in the following settings:

(a) A hospital, as defined in [NRS 449.012](#).

(b) A rural health clinic, as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1395x(aa)(2).

(c) A health facility or agency, other than a hospital, that is reimbursed as a federally qualified health center as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1395x(aa)(4) or that has been determined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to meet the requirements to receive funding under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § 254b, as amended.

(d) A federally qualified health center, as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1395x(aa)(4), that is licensed as a health facility or agency by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(e) An outpatient health program or facility operated by a tribe or tribal organization under subchapter I of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C. §§ 5321 to 5332, inclusive, as amended, or by an urban Indian organization receiving funds under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, 25 U.S.C. §§ 1651 to 1660h, inclusive, as amended.

(f) A school-based health center as defined in [NRS 41.495](#).

(g) Any other clinic or practice setting, including, without limitation, a mobile dental unit, in which at least 50 percent of the total patient base of the dental therapist will consist of patients who:

(1) Are enrolled in a health care program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services;

(2) Have a medical disability or chronic condition that creates a significant barrier to receiving dental care;

or

(3) Do not have dental health coverage through a public health care program or private insurance and have a household income which is less than 200 percent of the federally designated level signifying poverty as provided in the most recent federal poverty guidelines published in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

4. The holder of a license or renewal certificate to practice dental therapy may practice only under the authorization of a dentist who:

(a) Holds an active license to practice dentistry in this State;

(b) Maintains a location from which to practice dentistry; and

(c) Actively practices dentistry in this State by treating patients.

(Added to NRS by [2019, 3199](#), effective January 1, 2020)

**NRS 631.3123 Dental therapists: Required provisions of written practice agreement. [Effective January 1, 2020.]** The written practice agreement required pursuant to [NRS 631.3122](#) between the authorizing dentist and a dental therapist must include:

1. The services and procedures and the practice settings for those services and procedures that the dental therapist may provide, together with any limitations on those services and procedures.

2. Any age-specific and procedure-specific practice protocols, including case selection criteria, assessment guidelines and imaging frequency.

3. Procedures to be used with patients treated by the dental therapist for informed consent and creating and maintaining dental records.

4. A plan for the monthly review of patient records by the authorizing dentist and dental therapist.

5. A plan for managing medical emergencies in each practice setting in which the dental therapist provides care.

6. A quality assurance plan for monitoring care, including patient care review, referral follow-up, and a quality assurance and chart review.

7. Protocols for administering and dispensing medications, including the specific circumstances under which medications may be administered and dispensed.

8. Criteria for providing care to patients with specific medical conditions or complex medical histories, including requirements for consultation before initiating care.

9. Specific written protocols, including a plan for providing clinical resources and referrals, governing situations in which the patient requires treatment that exceeds the dental therapist's capabilities or the scope of practice as a dental therapist.

10. A requirement that when an appointment is made for a patient, it must be disclosed to the patient whether the patient is scheduled to see the dentist or a dental therapist.

(Added to NRS by [2019, 3201](#), effective January 1, 2020)

**NRS 631.3124 Dental therapists: Authorized services; referral of patient to authorizing dentist for certain purposes; supervision of dental assistants and dental hygienists. [Effective January 1, 2020.]**

1. In accordance with the written practice agreement required pursuant to [NRS 631.3122](#), a dental therapist may perform the following acts:

(a) Expose radiographs.

(b) Conduct an assessment of the oral health of the patient through medical and dental histories, radiographs, indices, risk assessments and intraoral and extraoral procedures that analyze and identify the oral health needs and problems of the patient.

(c) After conducting an assessment pursuant to paragraph (b), develop a dental hygiene care plan to address the oral health needs and problems of the patient.

(d) Take the following types of impressions:

(1) Those used for the preparation of diagnostic models;

(2) Those used for the fabrication of temporary crowns or bridges; and

(3) Those used for the fabrication of temporary removable appliances, provided no missing teeth are replaced by those appliances.

(e) Remove stains, deposits and accretions, including dental calculus.

(f) Smooth the natural and restored surface of a tooth by using the procedures and instruments commonly used in oral prophylaxis, except that an abrasive stone, disc or bur may be used only to polish a restoration. As used in this paragraph, "oral prophylaxis" means the preventive dental procedure of scaling and polishing which includes the removal of calculus, soft deposits, plaques and stains and the smoothing of unattached tooth surfaces in order to create an environment in which hard and soft tissues can be maintained in good health by the patient.

(g) Provide dental hygiene care that includes:

(1) Implementation of a dental hygiene care plan to address the oral health needs and problems of patients pursuant to paragraph (c).

(2) Evaluation of oral and periodontal health after the implementation of the dental hygiene care plan described in subparagraph (1) in order to identify the subsequent treatment, continued care and referral needs of the patient.

(h) Perform subgingival curettage.

(i) Remove sutures.

(j) Place and remove a periodontal pack.

(k) Remove excess cement from cemented restorations and orthodontic appliances. A dental therapist may not use a rotary cutting instrument to remove excess cement from restorations or orthodontic appliances.

(l) Train and instruct persons in the techniques of oral hygiene and preventive procedures.

(m) Recement and repair temporary crowns and bridges.

(n) Recement permanent crowns and bridges with nonpermanent material as a palliative treatment.

(o) Place a temporary restoration with nonpermanent material as a palliative treatment.

(p) Administer local intraoral chemotherapeutic agents in any form except aerosol, including, but not limited to:

(1) Antimicrobial agents;

(2) Fluoride preparations;

(3) Topical antibiotics;

(4) Topical anesthetics; and

(5) Topical desensitizing agents.

(q) Apply pit and fissure sealant to the dentition for the prevention of decay.

2. After performing any of the services set forth in subsection 1, the dental therapist shall refer the patient to the authorizing dentist for follow-up care or any necessary additional procedures that the dental therapist is not authorized to perform.

3. A dental therapist may supervise dental assistants and dental hygienists to the extent permitted in a written practice agreement.

(Added to NRS by [2019, 3201, 3203](#), effective January 1, 2020)