

## **Dental Therapist License in Washington State**

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1678 passed in 2023 creating a new dental therapist license in Washington state. The intention of this legislation is to expand access to oral health care by increasing the number of providers working in underserved communities. Dental therapists are allowed to practice in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) or FQHC look-a-likes. The supervising dentist and the dental therapist must have a practice plan contract that outlines the functions in which the dental therapist is authorized to perform. Dental therapists are allowed to supervise Expanded Functions Dental Auxiliaries, Dental Assistants, and Dental Hygienists.

The dental commission has established a dental therapy committee to work on reviewing education, exams, and to assist the Department of Health with rule writing. The dental therapy committee has held several workshops and has made great progress in establishing this new dental profession.

If you are interested in participating in this work, please sign up for the Dental Therapist GovDelivery email list. Go to [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov). Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the button “sign up for updates from DOH.” Once you register, select (+) “Health Systems Quality Assurance (HSQA)”, (+) “Health Professions”, then select the profession you like to subscribe to. You may also send any questions to [bruce.bronoske@doh.wa.gov](mailto:bruce.bronoske@doh.wa.gov).