

VERMONT TECH

Department of Dental Hygiene
301 Lawrence Place
Williston, VT 05495

February 18, 2016

Dear Doctor,

As you may be aware, currently there is a bill being heard in the Vermont legislature to create a new mid-level dental provider to be called a dental therapist. This same type of provider is legal and part of the dental team in Minnesota and Maine and 57 countries throughout the world. If the legislation passes the Vermont Technical College plans to offer the curriculum at its current Dental Hygiene clinic in Williston, VT. Associate or baccalaureate degree dental hygienists with one additional year of full time, clinical and didactic education will be awarded a baccalaureate degree in Dental Therapy. The Commission on Dental Accreditation has recently established accreditation standards for the education of these providers and the program at VTC will meet or exceed those standards - <http://www.ada.org/~media/CODA/Files/dt.pdf?la=en>. Following their educational program these providers will be required to take a clinical regional licensing examination for the procedures within their scope of practice. The same criteria that is used to examine dental students for these procedures will be applied to the dental therapists. Once licensed, these providers will work under the direct supervision of a dentist for at least 1000 hours before they would be able to work under general supervision of a dentist with a collaborative agreement in facilities, such as nursing homes, schools, and hospitals where unmet dental needs are high. The collaborative agreement will include only the procedures that the dentist deems the dental therapist competent to perform.

If you would like additional information on how the use of dental therapists has positively impacted access to care in Minnesota I invite you to attend a live webinar entitled, "Employing Dental Therapists: Access and Financial Impact On Monday March 7, 2016 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm presented by John T. Powers, DDS and Sarah Wovcha JD, MPH. You can register for the webinar by going to the following link:
<http://www.kintera.org/AutoGen/Contact/ContactUs.asp?event=1156591&en=atLJKXNDJ9ISJ7PGK8LPL3PQLkJNK4OPJkZI8NPKkKPKaNTLjLWleNSKmJXLcN2H>

The Vermont Technical College is attempting to determine the number of dentists who would consider hiring a graduate of their Dental Therapy program if the legislation is passed. In addition, we would appreciate knowing if you have any interest in helping to provide the education for these providers. We would greatly appreciate it if you would take a minute of your time to complete this very short anonymous survey and return it to us in the stamped self-addressed envelope. Your timely response is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ellen B. Grimes, RDH, MA, MPA, Ed.D
Dental Hygiene Program Director
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Please circle the appropriate response.

Would you consider hiring a VTC dental therapist for your practice if the legislation becomes a law?

Yes No Unsure

Would you be interested in teaching in the Vermont Technical College Dental Therapy program?

Yes No Unsure

If yes, would you be interested in teaching full-time or part-time?

Full – time Part-Time

If you answered that you would be interested in teaching in the program, please provide your contact information below:

Name:

Phone #:

E-mail: