DENTAL THERAPISTS: A FALSE Comparison to Other Health Practice Models

WHILE SUPPORTERS OF DENTAL THERAPIST PROPOSALS MAY COMPARE THIS PROPOSED PROVIDER MODEL TO NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, THAT IS A FALSE COMPARISON.

Nurse practitioners and physician assistants have higher requirements for education, training and licensure.

### ADVANCED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER (ARNP)
- Four-year undergraduate degree, Bachelor of Science in Nursing – BSN and successful completion of registered nurse licensing exam
- 1-2 years or more of registered nursing practice
- Three-year master’s degree (MSN) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from accredited program
- Successful completion of nursing practitioner licensing requirements
- SERVICES INCLUDE: Physical assessments, diagnosing illnesses, ordering and analyzing diagnostic tests and procedures, prescribe medications, manage patient treatment, and provide education and counseling.

### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA)
- Four-year undergraduate degree
- Many PA programs also require prior health care experience with hands-on patient care
- Three-year master’s degree from accredited PA program
- Successful completion of the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam
- SERVICES INCLUDE: Diagnostic tests and physical exams, treatment plans, preventive care counsel, assist in surgery, and prescribe medications.

While dental therapists have a lower requirement for education, training and licensure, they have a larger scope of responsibilities and services, including performing irreversible surgical procedures with limited to no supervision.

### DENTAL THERAPIST
- Three-year dental therapy program
- SERVICES INCLUDE: Filling cavities, placing temporary crowns, and performing irreversible surgical procedures, including drilling and extracting teeth, with limited to no supervision.

The FDA believes every Floridian deserves the highest level of care to ensure the integrity of their oral health and overall health. We urge opposition to any proposal for a new licensed dental provider that would lower the standard of dental care for Floridians by allowing irreversible surgical procedures to be performed by anyone who is not a dentist.

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