

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 ROOT OF
QUALITY DENTAL
CARE IS EDUCATION
AND TRAINING**

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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