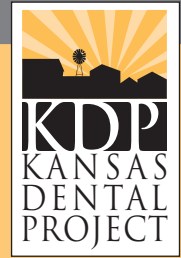


Registered Dental Practitioner



Kansas has a serious problem when it comes to access to dental care, especially in rural areas of the state. In fact, 93 Kansas counties do not have enough dentists to serve their population. With the average dentist in Kansas approaching retirement age, this problem will only get worse. But, we can create our own solution in Kansas – by creating a new member of the dental team, the Registered Dental Practitioner (RDP). Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners have helped address the medical workforce shortage in rural areas, and Registered Dental Practitioners can do the same for the dental workforce.

Education

RDPs in Kansas will be Registered Dental Hygienists who choose to obtain advanced training beyond their dental hygiene degree. The training program for RDPs will include intensive, hands-on experience to master their scope of practice.

Kansas is well-positioned to create training programs for this new career path. Across the state, there are five dental hygiene schools, potentially allowing RDPs to be trained close to the communities they will serve.

Supervision

RDPs must be supervised by a dentist. There are two types of supervision levels under which RDPs may practice: direct and general. Under direct supervision, the RDP must practice in the same setting as the dentist. Under general supervision, the RDP may practice in a different setting after receiving permission from their supervising dentist. As part of general supervision, the dentist may limit what services the RDP may provide, and through a written supervision agreement the dentist and RDP will have protocols in place for unintended complications. All RDPs must work under direct supervision for at least 500 hours before being able to work under general supervision.

Scope of Practice

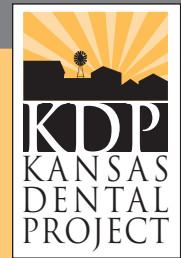
The services that may be provided by an RDP include all services provided by Registered Dental Hygienists plus additional services, including fillings, cavity preparation, extractions of baby teeth, and extractions of already loose permanent teeth. The supervising dentist may limit the scope of an RDP under their supervision through the written supervision agreement.

RDPs will bring a valuable combination of skill to the dental team - they will be able to provide the education and preventative care of hygienists and basic restorative care needed to alleviate pain and treat dental disease.

Quality of Care

Mid-level dental practitioners, such as RDPs, have been practicing in more than 50 countries for nearly 80 years and research shows they provide safe, high-quality care. In fact, there is no evidence to the contrary.

Scope of Practice



- Oral health instruction and disease prevention education, including nutritional counseling and dietary analysis
- Preliminary charting of the oral cavity
- Making radiographs
- Dental prophylaxis (mechanical polishing)
- Application of topical preventative or prophylactic agents, including fluoride varnishes and pit and fissure sealants
- Pulp vitality testing
- Application of desensitizing medication or resin
- Fabrication of athletic mouthguards
- Placement of temporary restorations
- Fabrication of soft occlusal guards
- Tissue conditioning and soft relines
- Atraumatic restorative therapy
- Dressing changes
- Tooth reimplantation and stabilization
- Administration of local anesthetic
- Administration of nitrous oxide
- Diagnosis of oral disease
- The formulation of an individualized treatment plan
- Extractions of primary teeth
- Nonsurgical extractions of periodontally diseased permanent teeth with tooth mobility of +3 or +4. The registered dental practitioner shall not extract a tooth for any patient if the tooth is unerupted, impacted, fractured, or needs to be sectioned for removal.
- Emergency palliative treatment of dental pain
- The placement and removal of space maintainers
- Cavity preparation
- Restoration of primary and permanent teeth
- Placement of temporary crowns
- Preparation and placement of preformed crowns
- Pulpotomies on primary teeth
- Indirect and direct pulp capping on primary and permanent teeth
- Suture removal
- Brush biopsies
- Simple repairs and adjustments for patients with removable prosthetic appliances
- Recementing of permanent crowns
- Prevent potential orthodontic problems by early identification and appropriate referral
- Prevent, identify, and manage dental and medical emergencies and maintain current basic life support certification