



Oral Health Services

Dental Therapy



FNHA Values:

- Respect
- Discipline
- Relationships
- Culture
- Excellence
- Fairness

FNHA Directives:

- Community-Driven, Nation-Based
- Increase First Nations Decision-Making and Control
- Improve Services
- Foster Meaningful Collaboration and Partnership
- Develop Human and Economic Capacity
- Be Without Prejudice to First Nations Interests
- Function at a High Operational Standard

The FNHA Oral Health Team supports a holistic approach to oral health service delivery; providing direct services through dental therapy, and prevention and promotion services through the Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI).

WHO ARE DENTAL THERAPISTS?

Dental therapists are mid-level oral healthcare providers trained to perform basic clinical dental treatment and preventive services for First Nations clients. They are recognized by the BC College of Dental Surgeons and trained to provide quality dental care.

Dental therapists collaborate with dentists, physicians, community care nurses and other health care professionals to ensure the oral health of clients .

Dental therapists also advocate for the needs of clients, assist them in accessing care and referring them to other professionals when clients' needs are beyond their scope of practice.

WHAT DO DENTAL THERAPISTS DO?

As members of a multi-disciplinary team, dental therapists provide restorative dental treatment services, disease prevention and oral health programs to maintain and improve oral health. Services are provided in both traditional and non-traditional settings and, depending on the location, with either permanent or portable dental equipment. Programs and services vary depending on a community's needs. The scope of practice for dental therapists includes:

Diagnostic Dentistry

- Routine, specific and emergency dental examinations
- Oral cancer screening



CONTACT INFORMATION

General

Toll-free: 1.855.550.5454
Email:
healthbenefits@fnha.ca

Dental Non-Insured

Toll-free: 1.888.321.5003
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FNHA Main Switchboard

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www.fnha.ca

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Community & Preventive Dentistry

- Pit and fissure sealants
- Scaling and root planing (teeth cleaning)
- Teeth polishing
- Fluoride treatments
- Individualized education and product recommendations
- Oral health counseling (e.g. tobacco cessation, diet)
- Fluoride treatments
- Presentations to pregnant women, families, school-age children, Elders and more

Operative Dentistry

- Administer local anesthetic
- Prepares and restores teeth with tooth decay
- Places stainless steel crowns
- Performs pulpotomy treatment (baby tooth root canal)
- Performs simple extractions on both primary (baby) teeth and permanent (adult) teeth

PROMOTION AND PREVENTION

Oral health promotion, education and prevention programs are important services provided by dental therapists, delivered in places such as:

- Schools, daycare and Head Start programs
- Community events
- Baby wellness clinics
- Starting Smart, MCH/ PECAP, Healthy Babies programs

Dental Therapists also provide professional oversight and support for the delivery of the FNHA Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI) and work with registered dental hygienists and COHI aides in its delivery.

Supporting generations of healthy smiles!