



Saskatchewan Dental Therapists Association

Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy (OMT) SDTA Position Statement – January 2025

Purpose

To provide guidelines on the administration of orofacial myofunctional therapies by a Dental Therapist.

Background

To perform OMT in Saskatchewan, a licensed Dental Therapist must:

- Complete a training program approved by the IAOM, available on <https://iaom.com/>
- Possess and demonstrate competency.
- Comply with all SDTA legislation, Practice Standards, and Competencies.
- Obtain a comprehensive health history.
- Perform an oral health assessment prior to providing care.
- Provide an adequate referral system with allied health care providers such as a consulting dentist, speech pathologist, or an orthodontist.
- Ensure that the client and/or caregiver understands the nature of therapy.
- Ensure that the client and/or caregiver understands the importance of follow-up care by an appropriate provider if required.
- Maintain currency in competence for the delivery of OMT.

Dental Therapists are trained to evaluate patients of all ages and recognize deviations from normal growth development. Dental Therapists are trained to identify common diseases of the mouth and other abnormal pathological conditions through clinical and radiographic examinations.

Position

After carefully reviewing the body of evidence surrounding history, indications for, and effectiveness of Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy, the SDTA has determined that a licensed Saskatchewan Dental Therapist may perform OMT within their scope of practice pending appropriate education and competency has been obtained.

Any interventions provided must focus on the exercises related to soft tissues in the oral cavity proper relating to resting position and functional patterns of these muscles and those related in the face. No therapies may be provided past the oral cavity proper in the oropharyngeal region.

This position statement reflects current evidence and is subject to periodic review and revisions with ongoing research and consultation. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the SDTA at contact@sdta.ca.

References

- The Dental Disciplines Act
- The SDTA Competencies & Practice Standards
- The International Association of Orofacial Myology (Internet). 2013 (Cited 2013 Sept 3.) Available from: <http://www.iaom.com/>

Acknowledgements

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