Update on Implementation of Accreditation Process for Dental Therapy Education Programs

Commission on Dental Accreditation

April 2016

Overview:

- Overview of CODA

- Dental Therapy Timeline and Implementation

- CODA Process of Accreditation

- Dental Therapy Standards

- CODA Resources

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Overview of CODA

CODA's Mission and Scope

The Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the oral health care needs of the public through the development and administration of standards that foster continuous quality improvement of dental and dental related educational programs.

- 1,452 accredited education programs in more than 800 institutions
- 22 dental and dental-related disciplines
- Volunteers
  - More than 600 site visitors, review committee members, and Commissioners
- 8 professional staff and 7 support staff

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Importance of CODA Accreditation

- Quality education is necessary to protect the public

- Consumer protection for students and residents

- Quality education programs are necessary for long-term viability of a profession

- CODA accreditation is an indication that a program has achieved / maintained a nationally-accepted level of educational quality

- Accreditation standards may be used by regulatory agencies to define scopes of practice

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- CODA accredits educational programs, not:
  - Institutions (regional or national accreditation)
  - Individuals (certification or licensure)

- Role of USDE
  - Recognizes CODA as the national programmatic accrediting agency for dental and dental-related educational programs
  - Assures best accreditation practices

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CODA's Roles and Responsibilities

- Set standards that define quality of education
- Evaluate and monitor programs for compliance with standards
- Establish policies and procedures to guide evaluation and decision process
- Solicit input on standards and policy revisions
- Ensure fairness and consistency in process
- Establish and oversee budget
- Assess its own effectiveness

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The Dental Therapy Timeline and Implementation

Dental Therapy Accreditation Process

A few introductory remarks….

- CODA has taken no position on the merits of dental therapy as a dental profession; this is an issue for each state to determine.

- Scope of practice is also within the purview of each state, not CODA.

- CODA's standards for dental therapy education programs are the nationally accepted educational requirements for this emerging discipline.

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Dental Therapy Timeline

- 2013
  - CODA Task Force writes Dental Therapy standards
  - Draft standards circulated for comments for one year
- 2014
  - Draft standards revised; circulated for one year
- 2015, February
  - CODA adopts Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs
  - June 1 deadline to submit documentation on criteria 2 and 5 of *Principles and Criteria Eligibility of Allied Dental Programs for Accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation*

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Dental Therapy Timeline

- 2015, August
  - CODA reviews documentation from Metropolitan State University, Minnesota Board of Dentistry, Minnesota Dental Hygienists' Association, Minnesota Dental Hygiene Educators' Association, Minnesota Department of Health, Normandale Community College, and University of Minnesota on criteria 2 and 5 of *Principles and Criteria Eligibility of Allied Dental Programs for Accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation*

  - CODA determines criteria 2 and 5 are satisfied

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Dental Therapy Timeline

- 2015, August
  - CODA forms Ad Hoc Committee to develop an implementation process for accreditation of dental therapy education programs, including:

    - Creation of application and related documents
    - Creation of self-study guide
    - Assigning review of program to a CODA Review Committee
    - Identification and training of site visitors

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Dental Therapy Timeline

- 2016, February
  - CODA adopts process of accreditation for Dental Therapy Education Programs

  - CODA adopts documents to begin accepting applications for accreditation of Dental Therapy programs

  - Details as follows…

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Dental Therapy Implementation

- Dental Therapy Site Visitors:
  - a licensed dentist educator (general dentist)
    - Predoctoral dental educator site visitor (curriculum or clinical predoctoral site visitor), or
    - Allied dental educator site visitor
  - a licensed dental therapist educator
- Dental Therapy Site Visit Team:
  - three (3) members as follows:
    - one (1) dental therapist educator,
    - one (1) predoctoral dentist educator, and
    - one (1) additional site visitor that could be either a second dental therapist educator, second predoctoral dentist educator, or an allied dentist educator

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Dental Therapy Implementation

- ## Assignment of Dental Therapy within CODA:
  - Assigned to Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC)
  - One additional member added to RC – a dental therapist educator

- ## Accreditation Application and Related Materials:
  - Accreditation materials now available by contacting CODA office

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Call for Dental Therapy Reviewers

- CODA Call for Volunteers:
  - Dental Therapy Site Visitors

  - Dental Therapist Educator on PREDOC RC

  - Deadline is **June 1**

    http://www.ada.org/en/coda/accreditation/accreditation-news/call-for-nominations/

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CODA Process of Accreditation

CODA Application Process

- Program requests application materials from CODA
- Program completes application and submits with application fee ($15,000 – 2016)
- Staff performs cursory review of application to determine general completeness
- Potential site visitors perform formal paper review of application to determine whether:
  - Application is complete based upon *Criteria for Granting Accreditation*
  - Program has the potential to comply with the Dental Therapy Accreditation Standards
  - On-site accreditation evaluation visit is/is not warranted

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CODA Application Process (cont.)

- Site visit team conducts on-site accreditation evaluation visit (typically 4-7 months following completion of application review)

- Site visit team generates draft Site Visit Report

- Staff forwards draft site visit report to program with opportunity to reply

- PREDOC RC reviews draft site visit report and program response – makes a recommendation to CODA

- CODA makes accreditation status decision

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CODA Application Process (cont.)

- Reminders:
  - Applications are <u>confidential</u> until they have progressed to a point where a site visit will be scheduled

  - First opportunity for CODA to consider an application may be 12-18 months following submission of an application that is in order

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Dental Therapy Standards

Dental Therapy Accreditation Standards

- ## Standard 1 – Institutional Effectiveness
  - Program purpose/mission
  - Program outcomes assessment
  - Institutional accreditation
  - Financial support
  - Program oversight/administration
  - Community resources

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Dental Therapy Accreditation Standards

- ## Standard 2 – Educational Program
  - Program length
    - Dental therapy program curriculum must be at least three academic years of full-time instruction at post-secondary level
  - Curriculum management
  - General education content
  - Biomedical sciences content
  - Didactic dental sciences content
  - Clinical sciences content
  - Additional functions allowed by state

  - Level of knowledge, skill and competence addressed throughout
  - Supervision at level specified by state dental practice act

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Dental Therapy Accreditation Standards

- Standard 3 – Faculty and Staff
  - Program Director qualifications and responsibilities
  - Faculty educationally qualified for subject teaching
  - Number and distribution of faculty and staff
  - Faculty development
  - Faculty evaluation
  - Support personnel

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Dental Therapy Accreditation Standards

- Standard 4 – Educational Support Services
  - Admissions
  - Advanced Standing
  - Enrollment proportionate to resources
  - Facilities (Clinical, Radiography, Laboratory, Office Space)
  - Student services (health, financial aid)

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Dental Therapy Accreditation Standards

- ## Advanced Standing
  - Allows for career laddering (for example, between dental therapy programs and dental assisting and dental hygiene programs)

  - Program may award advanced standing for coursework completed at another educational program accredited by CODA or by the use of appropriate qualifying or proficiency examinations

  - Program has the authority to grant full or partial course credit for a specific course toward the completion of the dental therapy program. This may apply to one or more courses in the dental therapy program curriculum

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Dental Therapy Accreditation Standards

- ## Advanced Standing

  – Admission based on same standards required for regularly enrolled students

  – Advanced standing requirements for career laddering into dental therapy must meet advanced standing requirements of college or university

  – Must be based upon individualized assessment and appropriate curriculum plan that results in same standards of competence for graduation required by students regularly enrolled in the program

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Dental Therapy Accreditation Standards

- Standard 5 – Health, Safety and Patient Care Provisions
  - Policies and procedures
  - Enforcement
  - Confidentiality of information on individual patients
  - Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) for patient care program
  - Patient's Bill of Rights
  - Delivery of patient care (EBD, access to services)

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CODA Resources

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Our Mission

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) serves the oral health care needs of the public through the development and administration of standards that foster continuous quality improvement of dental and dental related educational programs.

ACCREDITATION BENEFITS MANY

Students and Residents who are the consumers, seeking the education programs we accredit

Educational Institutions that maintain quality education programs by complying with nationally accepted accreditation standards

Licensing and Regulatory Bodies that license and register dental professionals

The Public who expect their oral health care needs are safely and expertly served

ACCREDITATION FOSTERS EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT

Accreditation in higher education is a self- and peer-assessment process that ensures improvement of academic quality and public accountability

CODA is the only nationally recognized agency for program-matic accreditation of dental and allied dental education programs at the post-secondary level

CODA receives its accreditation authority from the acceptance of all stakeholders within the dental community and from recognition by the United States Department of Education

ALL STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATE

Dental, advanced dental, and allied dental disciplines are under the accreditation purview of CODA

When reviewing and updating standards, **CODA ensures standards reflect the evolving practice of dentistry** by seeking input from all its communities of interest

CODA maintains continuous contact with those important communities through various mechanisms

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MONITORED THROUGH RIGOROUS PEER REVIEW

Dental and allied dental education programs apply for accreditation based on Accreditation Standards

To maintain accreditation, institutions self-assess their adherence to the Accreditation Standards

CODA uses comprehensive internal quality assurance and in-depth training of its volunteers (who are qualified, experienced professionals), who evaluate programs on site and clearly and comprehensively report their findings to the Commission

The Commission makes the final decision to award, continue or remove an accreditation status. The Commission bases its judgments on the program's compliance with the Accreditation Standards and Commission Policies

CODA ACCREDITS MORE THAN 1,400 DENTAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

> Advanced Education in General Dentistry

> Advanced General Dentistry Education in Dental Anesthesiology

> Advanced General Dentistry Education in Oral Medicine

> Advanced General Dentistry Education in Orofacial Pain

> Dental Assisting

> Dental Laboratory Technology

> Dental Hygiene

> Dental Therapy

> Dental Public Health

> Endodontics

> General Practice Residency

> Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

> Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology

> Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

> Maxillofacial Prosthetics

> Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

> Pediatric Dentistry

> Periodontics

> Predoctoral Dental Education

> Prosthodontics

> Fellowships in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Craniofacial and Special Care Orthodontics

WHERE TO LEARN MORE

For more information about what the Commission on Dental Accreditation does, or a listing of programs CODA accredits, please go to **ADA.org/CODA** to access resources available online, such as standards, a listing of currently accredited programs, and more. You can also contact the CODA staff:

The Commission on Dental Accreditation

211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
800.621.8099
or 312.440.4653

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CODA Resources

- CODA Website: http://www.ada.org/en/coda
- Accreditation News: http://www.ada.org/en/coda/accreditation/accreditation-news/
- CODA Meeting Materials: http://www.ada.org/en/coda/accreditation/coda-meeting-materials/
- CODA Standards: http://www.ada.org/en/coda/current-accreditation-standards/
- Accredited Program Listing: http://www.ada.org/en/coda/find-a-program/search-dental-programs#t=us&sort=relevancy

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