COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION
DENTAL THERAPY TALKING POINTS

- At its February 6, 2015 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation adopted Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs, which can be found at http://www.ada.org/en/coda/accreditation/accreditation-news/

- The most recent report on Dental Therapy reviewed by the Commission at its Summer 2015 meeting can be found at http://www.ada.org/en/coda/accreditation/coda-meeting-materials/

- On August 7, 2015 the Commission on Dental Accreditation determined that criteria #2 and #5 of the “Principles and Criteria Eligibility of Allied Dental Programs for Accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation” were satisfied.

- CODA has directed establishment of an accreditation process for dental therapy, including but not limited to creation of application and related accreditation documents, identification of individuals to serve as Commission site visitors in the discipline, training of site visitors, and assigning review of dental therapy education programs to a CODA Review Committee. The Commission will review a report on the ad hoc committee’s progress in Winter 2016.

- CODA is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) to accredit dental and dental-related education programs conducted at the post-secondary level. CODA’s mission is to serve 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. If CODA did not develop national accreditation standards for dental therapy education programs, then the education standards may have been defined by individual state governmental agencies or other accrediting entities without the same level of expertise or concern for the dental profession, resulting in fragmentation of the accreditation process for dental and dental related educational programs.

- Once accreditation materials are fully developed and publicized, applications for accreditation may be received by the Commission. The earliest an existing or developing dental therapy program could be accredited is estimated to be January 2017.

- CODA does not currently accredit any program in Dental Therapy.