



DID YOU KNOW?

Recent Accomplishments for
Minnesota Dentists by the MDA

Many of the changes affecting dentistry happen quietly through legislation, regulatory updates, collaboration with state agencies, insurer engagement, and ongoing advocacy efforts.

Here are a few recent accomplishments from the MDA that are creating new opportunities, reducing administrative burdens, strengthening the dental workforce, and protecting dental practices across Minnesota.



**MINNESOTA
DENTAL
ASSOCIATION®**

PROTECTING DENTAL PRACTICES



DID YOU KNOW?

Dental services are exempt from Minnesota's medical debt law.

In 2024, Minnesota enacted new protections related to medical debt, including restrictions on reporting medical debt to credit reporting agencies, transferring medical debt to a spouse, and denying medically necessary care because of outstanding medical debt.

The MDA successfully secured an exemption for services provided by dentists.

What this means for you:

- ✓ Services provided by dentists are excluded from the definition of medical debt.
- ✓ Dental practices retain flexibility in managing patient accounts.
- ✓ Dentistry was not swept into regulations designed for hospitals and medical providers.
- ✓ Practices can continue using collection and payment policies tailored to dental care.



DID YOU KNOW?

Dental plans must now be more transparent and accountable.

MDA-led legislation enacted in 2023 strengthened protections for participating dentists and increased transparency in dental plan contracts.

New requirements include:

Fee Schedule Disclosure – Dental plans must provide complete fee schedules before a dentist signs a participating provider agreement.

No-Fee Payment Option – Dental plans must offer at least one reimbursement method that does not require dentists to pay a fee to receive payment.

Network Leasing Transparency – Dental plans must disclose network leasing arrangements and provide participating dentists the ability to opt out.

What this means for you:

- ✓ Greater transparency from dental plans.
- ✓ More informed contracting decisions.
- ✓ Additional control over network participation.
- ✓ Potential savings by avoiding unnecessary payment processing fees.



DID YOU KNOW?

Some dental plans now reimburse the MinnesotaCare provider tax.

The MDA worked with Delta Dental of Minnesota to establish reimbursement for the MinnesotaCare provider tax when submitted using CDT Code D9985. Other payers may also reimburse the tax when appropriately billed.

Dentists remain responsible for remitting the provider tax to the state, but reimbursement may help offset a portion of that expense.

What this means for you:

- ✓ An opportunity to recover some provider tax-related expenses.
- ✓ Reduced financial impact of the provider tax for eligible claims.
- ✓ Recognition that the provider tax creates a real cost for dental practices.

SUPPORTING DENTAL PRACTICES



DID YOU KNOW?

Minnesota extended the pass-through entity tax election.

The MDA joined a coalition of business and professional organizations advocating for the extension of Minnesota's pass-through entity (PTE) tax election. Legislation passed in 2026 extended the election through tax year 2027.

What this means for you:

- ✓ Continued availability of the PTE tax election for eligible practices.
- ✓ Greater tax planning certainty for practice owners.
- ✓ Preservation of a valuable tax tool used by many dental practices and other small businesses.



DID YOU KNOW?

Insurance companies cannot rely solely on artificial intelligence to make utilization review decisions.

Legislation passed in 2026 prohibits utilization review organizations from making adverse determinations based solely on automated processes or artificial intelligence.

What this means for you:

- ✓ Greater accountability in utilization review decisions.
- ✓ Increased oversight of automated insurance processes.
- ✓ Additional safeguards against inappropriate denials.
- ✓ More transparency in how coverage decisions are made.

STRENGTHENING THE DENTAL WORKFORCE



DID YOU KNOW?

Unlicensed dental assistants can now perform additional duties.

The MDA continues to advocate for unlicensed dental assistants to perform additional duties. While still a work in progress, some of the successful items the MDA spearheaded and approved by the Minnesota Board of Dentistry include:

Now permitted:

- Intraoral and extraoral photographs.
- Digital scans and impressions.

What this means for you:

- ✓ Improved practice efficiency.
- ✓ Better utilization of team members.
- ✓ Increased flexibility in staffing.
- ✓ Enhanced patient flow and productivity.



DID YOU KNOW?

Unlicensed dental assistants can now take radiographs.

Working collaboratively with the Minnesota Board of Dentistry, the MDA helped establish a Limited Radiology Registrant pathway that allows dental assistants without a license to take radiographs after completing a short educational course.

What this means for you:

- ✓ Additional workforce flexibility.
- ✓ Improved productivity within the dental team.
- ✓ Greater support for dentists and licensed staff.
- ✓ Expanded access to care for patients.



DID YOU KNOW?

Minnesota expanded pathways for dental assistant licensure.

MDA-supported legislation signed into law in 2024 clarified that the Minnesota Board of Dentistry may recognize qualified out-of-state, non-CODA-accredited dental assisting programs for licensure by credentials when applicants demonstrate equivalent or sufficient education and training.

What this means for you:

- ✓ More opportunities to recruit qualified dental assistants.
- ✓ Greater flexibility when hiring from outside Minnesota.
- ✓ Expanded licensure-by-credentials pathways.
- ✓ A stronger workforce pipeline for dental practices.



DID YOU KNOW?

Minnesota is now part of the Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact.

Legislation passed in 2024 made Minnesota a member of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. Dentists and dental hygienists licensed in participating compact states now have a streamlined pathway to practice in other participating states.

What this means for you:

- ✓ Easier interstate practice opportunities.
- ✓ Reduced licensure barriers.
- ✓ Greater workforce mobility.
- ✓ Additional tools to help address workforce shortages.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE



DID YOU KNOW?

Comprehensive adult Medicaid dental benefits have been restored.

In 2023, the MDA successfully led the effort to restore comprehensive adult dental benefits under Minnesota Health Care Programs.

For the first time since 2008, adults enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs have access to comprehensive dental benefits.

What this means for patients and providers:

- ✓ More covered services for adult patients.
- ✓ Expanded access to preventive and restorative care.
- ✓ Reduced barriers to treatment.
- ✓ Better opportunities to improve oral health outcomes.

THE BOTTOM LINE



These accomplishments represent the work of the MDA before the Legislature, state agencies, regulatory boards, insurance carriers, and other stakeholders.

By bringing the voice of Minnesota dentists forward, the MDA continues working to reduce barriers, strengthen dental practices, support the profession, and improve access to oral health care for patients throughout Minnesota.



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