

# DENTAL THERAPIST



## **Summary of profession**

Dental Therapists are primary oral healthcare professionals, who are trained to perform basic clinical dental treatment and preventive services within a variety of practice settings. They examine and treat diseases of the teeth in pre-school, primary and secondary school children.

## **Working hours, patterns and environment**

They must be registered with the Medical and Dental Council of the country in which they intend to work. Full time Dental Therapists usually work 38-40 hours per week. Dental practices are warm, bright, well lit and clean.

## **Education and Skills**

To become a Dental Therapist, you have to complete a diploma in Oral Health Therapy. The duration of training is 3-4 years' full time. Prerequisite subjects include Math, English, Biology and Chemistry at the CXC or IGCSE level. Dental Therapists must have manual dexterity, a good eyesight, be able to do precise and detailed work, establish rapport with children and work as part of a team.

## **Job and Growth Opportunities**

Dental Therapists can progress to a Practice Manager or dedicate themselves to teaching Dental Therapy training courses.