What is a Pilot Project?

(A definition) A pilot project is a small-scale preliminary experiment designed to help you check out the feasibility, effectiveness, and potential outcomes of a project before you get started.

Dental Pilot Program Legislation Passed in 2022 (Wording in HB 2362) to allow Pilot Project in Missouri approved by Missouri Dental Board in Collaboration with the MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services’ Office of Dental Health.

Section A. Chapter 332, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be 2 known as section 332.325, to read as follows:

332.325. 1. The Missouri dental board may collaborate with the department of health and senior services and the office of dental health within the department of health and senior services to approve pilot projects designed to examine new methods of extending care to underserved populations. Such pilot projects may employ techniques or approaches to care that may necessitate a waiver of the requirements of this chapter and regulations promulgated thereunder, provided that:

(1) The project plan has a clearly stated objective of serving a specific underserved population that warrants, in the opinion of a majority of the board, granting approval for a pilot project;

(2) The pilot project has a finite start date and termination date;

(3) The pilot project clearly defines the new techniques or approaches the project intends to examine to determine whether such techniques or approaches improve access to or quality of care;

(4) The project plan identifies specific and limited locations and populations to participate in the pilot project;
(5) The project plan clearly establishes minimum guidelines and standards for the pilot project including, but not limited to, provisions for protecting the safety of participating patients;

(6) The project plan clearly defines the measurement criteria the pilot project will use to evaluate the outcomes of the project on access to and quality of care; and

(7) The project plan identifies reporting intervals to communicate interim and final outcomes to the board.

2. The board may promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are non severable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 31, 2022, shall be invalid and void.

3. The provisions of this section shall expire on August 28, 2026. The board shall provide a final report on approved pilot projects and related data or findings to the general assembly on or before December 31, 2025. The name, location, approval dates, and general description of an approved pilot project shall be deemed a public record under chapter 610.

Nursing Home Pilot Project with Telehealth Approved by Missouri Dental Board is ongoing.

20 CSR 2110-2.133 Telehealth Dental Pilot Project in Medically Underserved Populations

PURPOSE: To implement the provisions of section 332.325, RSMo.

(1) Pursuant to the provisions of section 332.325, RSMo, the board is collaborating with the Office of Dental Health (ODH) within the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to create a pilot project designed to examine new methods of extending dental care to residents in assisted living facilities, intermediate care facilities, residential care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and homebound special needs patients.

(2) This pilot project, as set forth in section (1) above, will necessitate a waiver of the following provisions of Chapter 332, RSMo, and previously promulgated regulations pursuant to section 332.325, RSMo.

(A) Specific provisions of sections 332.093 and 332.098, RSMo, and 20 CSR 2110-2.120 in order to allow a dentist to supervise a dental assistant, certified dental assistant, or expanded
functions dental assistant using telehealth technology. A supervising dentist may delegate to an expanded functions dental assistant any expanded function duties that the dental assistant has a board issued permit for.

(B) Specific provisions of 20 CSR 2110-2.130 to allow a licensed dental hygienist to administer local anesthetic under the supervision of a dentist using telehealth technology.

(C) Specific provisions of sections 332.071 and 332.093, RSMo, and 20 CSR 2110-2.120 to allow temporary restorations or caries-arresting fluoride under the supervision of a dentist using telehealth technology subsequent to an examination and diagnosis by the supervising dentist.

(D) Specific provisions of 20 CSR 2110-2.001 and 20 CSR 2110-2.130 to allow a licensed dental hygienist to provide scaling and polishing, root planing, and nonsurgical periodontal procedures prior to the supervising dentist performing an examination pursuant to standing orders written by the supervising dentist.

(3) The provisions of this rule shall only apply to dental healthcare workers providing services pursuant to a pilot project created through a collaboration between ODH and the board and shall expire on August 28, 2026, in accordance with section 332.325, RSMo.


20 CSR 2110-2.134 Oral Preventive Assistant Pilot Project

Purpose: To implement the provisions of Section 332.325, RSMo for a pilot project to create an oral preventive assistant.

(1) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 332.325, RSMo, the board is collaborating with the Office of Dental Health (ODH) within the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to create a pilot project designed to expand the scope of practice of expanded function dental assistants (EFDA) to include duties currently delegable only to a licensed dental hygienist. The project will temporarily create a new expanded function dental assistant known as an oral preventive assistant.

(2) This pilot project, as set forth in Section (1) above, will necessitate a waiver of the following provisions of Chapter 332 and previously promulgated regulations pursuant to Section 332.325, RSMo.: (A) Specific provisions of Sections 332.093, 332.098 and 332.101 RSMo, and 20 CSR 2110-2.120 in order to temporarily create a new expanded function dental assistant known as an oral preventive assistant.

(3) The scope of practice for an oral preventive assistant shall include taking and recording periodontal probe readings, documenting areas of periodontal concern, and supragingival scaling and polishing. Oral preventive assistants will be limited to
Practicing on periodontally healthy patients or patients with reversible gingivitis.

(4) Oral preventive assistants shall complete a Board approved oral preventive assistant expanded function training course and apply for an expanded function permit issued by the Board. Before taking an oral preventive assistant expanded function training course, a dental assistant shall successfully complete the Missouri Dental Assisting Skills exam administered by the Dental Assisting National Board or possess current certification as a Certified Dental Assistant from the Dental Assisting National Board.

(5) The provisions of this rule shall only apply to dental healthcare workers providing services pursuant to a pilot project created through a collaboration between ODH and the board and shall expire on August 28, 2026 in accordance with Section 332.325, RS

OPA Pilot Project Rule approved by MDB is not yet finalized, but the Missouri Dental Association (MDA) has begun didactic training. Participants cannot perform and work on patients unless the rule becomes finalized. (This means the Governor’s office needs to move it forward and it has to be published in the Missouri Register, a state publication that publishes all state proposed rules. If it gets published, there is a 30-day comment period for the public to give its input on the rule. At this time, the rule has not been printed in the Missouri Register for comments. Get your comments ready for the appropriate time). Ask dentists to write to the Governor to stop it.

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