Integration and coordination of medical and dental health approaches to reach optimal/total health.

Inter-professional collaboration is a driving force behind state-of-the-art health care delivery. (Fried, 2014). "Restructuring the oral health delivery system to accommodate the medically underserved will require reconfiguration of the dental team. To a large extent, increasing access to oral healthcare will depend upon developing inter-professional relations."

When "professional teams work collaboratively, they value one another's perspectives and contributions, they understand and appreciate true teamwork, they communicate effectively, and share an ethical code that is premised on just and high-quality care."

**Dentist**
The dentist is the fundamental nucleus of the professional dental team committed to leading and supporting team members toward achievement of a shared goal, which is to provide accessible comprehensive patient-centered care.

**Dental Hygienist**
The dental hygienist, the team's preventive oral health care specialist, reaches out to serve and empower patients to achieve optimal oral health through preventive, therapeutic and educational services. The dental hygienist practicing collaboratively in alternative settings is committed to eliminating barriers to oral health care.
**Dental Therapist/Advanced Dental Therapist**
This mid-level dental team member is unique, with competence in preventive, therapeutic, surgical and restorative dental services and holds a professional commitment to providing much-needed care to underserved populations.

**Dental Assistant**
The dental assistant being central to dental team success ensures adeptness and efficiency to the team's delivery of quality patient care, whose role and effectiveness helps expand outreach possibilities.

**Community Health Worker/Navigator**
The community health worker/navigator is the dental team's trusted and most connected patient advocate effective in ensuring health care needs are met because of their close understanding of the community in which they serve.

**Administrative Staff**
Office managers and administrative assistants are the dental team's organizers, budgeters, schedulers, insurance filers, and key communicators whose networking capabilities promote a clinic's ability to extend their community services.

**Medical Team**
Bridging professional strengths through effective collaboration leads to improved health outcomes. From physician, pharmacist, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, nurse, nursing assistant, physical and occupational therapist, to patient care coordinator and beyond... linking systemic health to oral health requires well-connected inter-professional care.