

**Unofficial Report of Major Actions
Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations
June 29, 2022**

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) met via teleconference on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 and took the following actions:

1. Approved the 2022 and 2023 budget proposal, proposed research and development activities for 2022 and 2023, and 2023 proposed candidate examination fees. The JCNDE recommended 2023 examination fees as follows:
 - National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE): \$565
 - Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE): \$845
 - Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE): \$975
 - Processing fee for candidates educated by non-accredited institutions: \$350
 - Score report request fee (additional reports): \$50
2. Approved actions to help ensure content appearing on Joint Commission examinations is of the highest quality, accuracy, and relevance, through the appointment and reappointment of highly qualified subject matter experts to serve as test constructors in support of the following examination programs:
 - INBDE
 - NBDHE
 - DLOSCE
 - DHLOSCE
3. Approved actions in support of the continued fairness of administrations of Joint Commission National Board Examinations.
 - Approved a fairness and sensitivity review process proposed by Department of Testing Services (DTS) staff and directed staff to pilot the process in 2023—or as soon as logistically feasible—by applying the process to a subset of INBDE, DLOSCE, and NBDHE items.
 - Directed staff to solicit applications from individuals willing to serve as fairness and sensitivity reviewers for the examination programs of the JCNDE, with review and selection of such individuals to begin in 2023.
 - Granted a request to extend the NBDE Part II discontinuation date to help ensure that candidates who have prepared to challenge this examination but encountered difficulties beyond their control—due to the global pandemic, difficulties in obtaining visas, etc.—have a reasonable opportunity to do so.
 - Candidates who have not achieved NB certification will be permitted one final attempt on the NBDE Part II during this extension – even if they have already unsuccessfully attempted the INBDE – as long as all other applicable eligibility requirements have been met. The NBDE Part II will remain available for administration through December 31, 2022, and will be discontinued on January 1, 2023. This policy cannot be appealed.
 - Candidates who have already passed the NBDE Part II may not take the INBDE unless required to do so by a state board or relevant regulatory agency.
4. Strengthened the anticipated contributions of JCNDE members and test constructors,

through further reduction of conflicts of interest and enabling greater flexibility in contributor selection decisions:

- A member of the Joint Commission may not simultaneously serve or have served as a principal officer of an external clinical testing or test development agency within the last five (5) years. The preceding applies to Commissioners whose appointments are made subsequent to the Joint Commission's June 2020 meeting. JCNDE test constructors cannot simultaneously serve as an examiner or officer for any external clinical testing or test development agencies, nor can they have served on such an agency for the past five (5) years.
 - With respect to the procedures for electing a public member, the JCNDE eliminated the requirement that at least two qualified nominees be identified, in favor of a provision indicating that the JCNDE may choose to delay a Public Member appointment until a suitable, qualified candidate is identified. This is intended to provide flexibility to the JCNDE in situations where a single, highly qualified Public Member candidate has applied for the role.
 - The JCNDE selected a new Public Member to serve an upcoming term beginning in October 2022 and concluding in October 2026.
 - In limited instances, the JCNDE may permit a test constructor who does not strictly meet requirements to move forward, if the JCNDE's perspective is that the quality of contribution provided by the individual far exceeds any challenges incurred due to the lack of strict adherence.
5. Pursued efforts in support of the strategic direction of the Joint Commission as it pursues its mission and vision. This includes the following:
- Conducted a thorough self-assessment to consider the efficiency and effectiveness of the JCNDE as it implements its *Bylaws* duties.
 - Directed staff to initiate efforts so that a JCNDE strategic planning meeting can take place in 2023. This meeting will involve careful scrutiny of the JCNDE's needs, values, scope, mission, vision, goals, governance, operating environment, stakeholders, communities of interest, projects, resources, and deliverables, as well as careful consideration of the JCNDE's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
 - Directed staff to survey dental boards to better understand the status of the profession of dental therapy within each board's jurisdiction, and boards' perceptions of the need for a National Board Dental Therapy Examination (NBDTE).
 - Directed staff to develop a strategic roadmap for the dental examinations of the JCNDE, to align efforts so goals and objectives can be achieved as effectively and expeditiously as possible.
6. Advanced the security of National Board Examination administrations, to further increase confidence that results of National Board Examinations provide an accurate representation of candidate skills and abilities.
- Rule violations and/or irregularities occurring in a separate examination program implemented by the Department of Testing Services (e.g., the Advanced Dental Admission Test Program) may result in penalties that impact a candidate's ability to test in a National Board Examination program.
 - Discussed a report outlining irregularities, violation notifications, and appeals, and the JCNDE's response in each circumstance.

7. Strengthened and aligned the JCNDE's efforts to assess the knowledge, skills, and abilities of aspiring Dental Hygiene professionals, to provide comprehensive and precise evaluation.
 - Adopted Strategic Goals and a Roadmap to help set the strategic direction for the Dental Hygiene examination programs of the JCNDE. This included the following:
 - Directed staff to implement a more advanced scoring model for the NBDHE (Item Response Theory 3 Parameter-Logistic Model), with an implementation date no sooner than 2025. This model increases the precision of measuring candidate skills.
 - Directed staff to continue investigating the desirability and feasibility of implementing multi-stage adaptive testing for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination. This approach can shorten the length of an examination while increasing test security and maintaining high levels of validity and reliability.
 - Monitored progress and efforts to design, construct, and implement the JCNDE's Dental Hygiene Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DHLOSCE), the launch of which is anticipated in 2024.
8. Reviewed JCNDE communication activities and identified opportunities for improvement and enhanced communications.
 - Reviewed the results of a comprehensive survey of dental and dental hygiene candidates and educators, to better understand the effectiveness of Joint Commission communications and guide future communication efforts.
 - Identified specific areas where communication is needed, and directed staff to proceed as indicated to help address these needs. This included the following:
 - Continue to enhance communications with the dental hygiene community, keeping this community informed of JCNDE efforts and updates.
 - Enhance communication with stakeholders, including dental boards, with the goal of improving relationships and two-way communication.
 - Review and update the JCNDE website as appropriate to ensure content remains current.
 - Promote new JCNDE initiatives (e.g., Multi-Stage Adaptive Testing, shortening of the National Board Examinations), and socialize these concepts with communities of interest to help ensure the readiness of those communities.
9. Successfully convened the State Dental Board Forum on June 27, 2022, to provide boards with the latest information on the National Board Examinations, and to answer any questions board members may have concerning the JCNDE and its examination programs.
10. Dr. John D. Da Silva will serve as JCNDE Chair for the 2022-2023 term. The JCNDE also elected Dr. Anthony Herro to serve as Vice-chair during the aforementioned term. Their service in these roles will begin in October 2022.
11. The next annual meetings of the JCNDE will be held on June 28, 2023 and June 26, 2024. The next annual State Dental Board Forums will occur June 26, 2023 and June 24, 2024.

Dr. R. Michael Sanders (AADB) Chair
Mrs. Joanna Allaire (ADHA)

Dr. John D. Da Silva (ADEA) Vice-chair
Dr. Anthony E. Herro (AADB)
Dr. Rachel E. Hogan (ADEA)
Ms. Han-Na Jang (ADHA)
Dr. Michael E. King (ADA)
Dr. Peter Loomer (ADEA)
Dr. Julie W. McKee (AADB)
Dr. Alia Osseiran (ASDA)
Dr. Jeetendra Patel (AADB)
Dr. Frank E. Schiano (ADA)
Dr. Mary A. Starsiak (AADB)
Dr. Patrick J. Tepe (ADA)
Dr. Douglas C. Wilson (Public Member)
Dr. Mark Zajkowski (AADB)

Dr. Gary D. Oyster, ADA Board Liaison
Mr. Tommy Lau, ASDA Student Observer