

Date: June 15, 2009

To: Organizations and Individuals Interested in Continuing Dental Education and the ADA CERP

From: Dr. Denis “Chip” Simon  
Chair, ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure

Subject: **Call for Written Comments: Proposed Changes to the ADA CERP Recognition Standards and Procedures**

The ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure and its Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP) Committee have been working with representatives of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) towards achieving mutual recognition between that organization’s Program Approval for Continuing Education (AGD PACE) and the ADA’s Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP). In November 2007, the Council approved the ADA CERP Committee’s recommendation to delete the statement, “The ADA CERP does not recognize individual instructors or authors,” from the ADA CERP Recognition Standards, in order to eliminate a significant difference between the ADA CERP and AGD PACE standards. Prior to implementing this change, a joint ADA CERP/AGD PACE task force was formed to conduct a systematic comparison of the two programs’ standards, policies, and application requirements, identify any other substantive differences, and propose ways to resolve them. The joint task force was charged with establishing consistent standards for quality continuing dental education to better serve dental professionals.

As a result of its comparison of the ADA CERP Standards and the AGD PACE Guidelines, the task force recommended numerous revisions to both documents to ensure that they are parallel and that they establish comparable standards for all providers. Revisions to the ADA CERP Recognition Standards and Procedures are being considered by the Council. The proposed revisions fall into several broad categories: (1) changes to the eligibility criteria to establish clear parallels between CERP and PACE requirements and to allow “sole providers” to apply for ADA CERP recognition; (2) expansion of the role of the independent advisory committee; and (3) additional guidelines regarding the separation of promotional activities from continuing dental education activities and management of commercial funding, to ensure that all providers comply with existing requirements for non-commercial continuing education with a sound scientific basis.

At its April 30–May 1, 2009, meeting, the Council directed that the proposed revisions to the ADA CERP Recognition Standards and Procedures be circulated among the communities of interest for review and comment. The Council will consider the feedback from the communities of interest and take action on the revisions at its November 2009 meeting.

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To view the [proposed revisions](#) and explanations as well as the current version of the [ADA CERP Recognition Standards and Procedures](#), click on the links or go to [www.ada.org/goto/cerp](http://www.ada.org/goto/cerp).

**Comments requested:** Your organization is invited to submit written comments on the proposed revision by **September 1, 2009**. Comments may be forwarded by e-mail, fax or mail to [cerp@ada.org](mailto:cerp@ada.org), Fax: 312-440-2915, or ADA CERP, 211 East Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611. If you have any questions, please contact the ADA CERP manager, Ms. Mary Borysewicz, at [borysewicz@ada.org](mailto:borysewicz@ada.org) or 800-622-8099, x2704.