

Should Part I and Part II of the  
NBDE be merged?

Now that's what I call a headache!

# The ADA JCNDE Perspective

## Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations

- 6 AADE representatives
- 3 ADEA
- 3 ADA
- 1 ADHA
- 1 ASDA
- 1 Public/consumer

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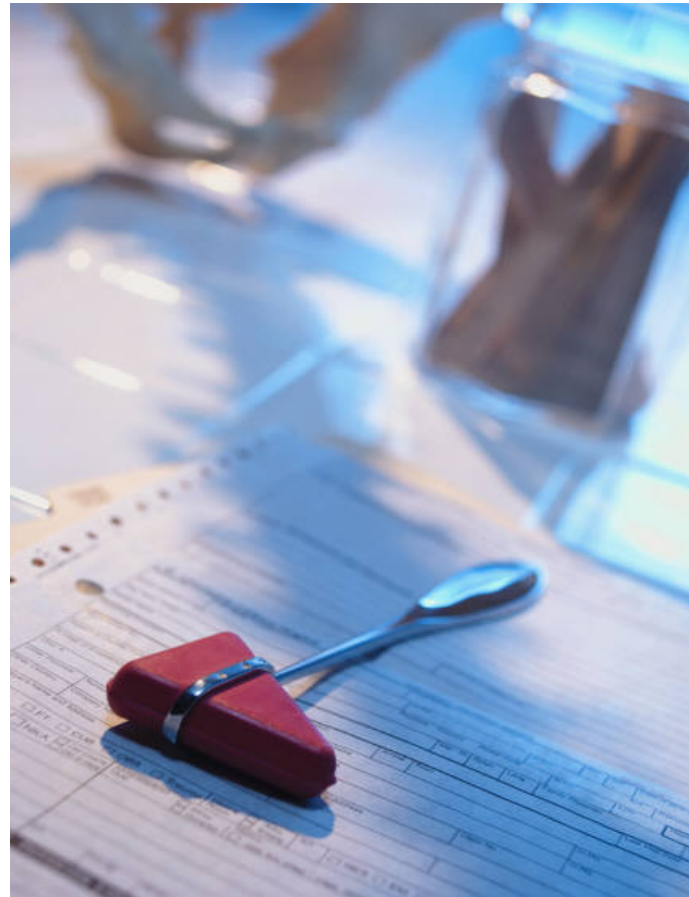


# Etiology of the headache



# The SOAP notes on the case

- Subjective
- Objective
- Assessment
- Plan



# Subjective

- Status quo is comfortable; change is hard
- Fear and dread ...the unknown, the effort
- Stakeholder backlash
- Distrust of JCNDE
- Confusion about purpose of exam
- Stress and stakes for students are high
- Perceptions of less rigor in assessment
- Overwhelmed and underprepared

# Subjective

## Ambivalence ...



## Excitement!!!

- Opportunity:
- Explore new item types and testing format
- Foster curricular enhancement through new approach to assessment
- Redefine assessment construct – general dentistry competencies vs knowledge in individual disciplines



# Objective

- Conflicts with state regulation
  - Will require change in statute in some states
  - Change could take 18 months or more
- Conflicts with use by schools
  - Academic advancement/graduation
  - Admission tool
  - Curriculum and outcome assessment

# Objective, cont'd

- The transition to 1 exam would require extensive R & D
  - Double workload for committees & staff
  - Costly
  - Define a new construct for measurement
  - Validity evidence will need to be gathered
  - New test construction process needed
  - New content specifications required
  - New practice analysis required
  - Standard setting process required to set P-F point

# Objective, cont'd

- Exam length will require serious consideration
  - 2 and ½ days of testing?
  - Adequate sampling of content to establish competence
  - Potential impact of exam length on candidate fatigue
  - Consider impact on scheduling and cost
- Potential exam administration issues
  - When to administer
    - Close to completion of program
    - Allow time for remediation/retest?

# Assessment

- Complex condition
- No clear answer, direction
- More diagnostic information needed
- Understand potential treatments and side effects
- Understand utility of alternatives
- Manage the challenge of continuity and sustained effort in a volunteer-driven governance system

# Prognosis

- Probability of success depends on stakeholder buy-in and participation
- Extensive communication will be a must
- The cure will require a long-term commitment



# Will we lose our wits before we find a cure?

