Update on the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE)

ADEA Annual Session
Denver, Colorado
March 13, 2016
Overview

• The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE)
• Update on JCNDE Policies
• Test Administration
• Examination Volume and Performance Trends
• Research and Development activities
  – Practice Analysis
  – Standard Setting
  – Electronic Score Reporting
• Q & A
Mission Statement of the JCNDE

“The JCNDE develops and conducts highly reliable, state of the art cognitive examinations that assist regulatory agencies in making valid decisions regarding licensure of oral health care professionals, develops and implements policy for the orderly, secure, and fair administration of its examinations, and is a leader and resource in assessment for the oral health care profession.”
Joint Commission Examinations

- The JCNDE oversees the following examinations:
  - National Board Dental Examination Part I (NBDE Part I)
  - National Board Dental Examination Part II (NBDE Part II)
  - National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE)
  - Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE)
    - Designed to replace NBDE Parts I and II
    - Currently under development
- The purpose of an examination is of paramount importance; examination purpose guides all decisions.
- The purpose of the National Board Dental Examinations and the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination is to assist state boards in determining the qualifications of individuals seeking licensure to practice dentistry or dental hygiene, respectively.
## Appointing Organizations and Current JCNDE Appointees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| AADB (6)     | Luis J Fujimoto, DMD, JCNDE Chair  
               Dale R Chamberlain, DDS  
               Patricia Ann Parker, DMD  
               David W Perkins, DMD  
               William F Robinson, DDS  
               Leonard P Weiss, DDS |
| ADA (3)      | Cheryl Haley, DDS  
               Lisa Heinrich-Null, DDS  
               Rhett L Murray, DDS |
| ADEA (3)     | Marc E Levitan, DDS, JCNDE Vice Chair  
               Frank W Licari, DDS, MPH, MBA  
               Nader Nadershahi, DDS, MBA, EdD |
| ADHA (1)     | Melissa Gail Efurd, RDH, Ed.D |
| ASDA (1)     | Greg P. Shank, BS |
| Public (1)   | Issie L. Shelton-Jenkins, JD, LLM |
| Liaisons & Observers | Alvin W. Stevens, DMD (ADA Board Liaison)  
                        Jordan J Telin, BS (ASDA Observer)  
                        Liaisons and observers do not participate in voting |
DTS implements admission and licensure testing for:

- Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE)
  - NBDE Part I
  - NBDE Part II
  - NBDHE
  - INBDE
- Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL)
  - Dental Admission Test (DAT)
  - Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT)
- Outside clients
Department of Testing Services

Test Development
  • Conducts 50+ Test Construction Committee meetings

Test Administration
  • Administers 40,000+ examinations, responds to 70,000+ phone calls, emails and faxes

Research and Development/Psychometrics
  • Oversees analysis and scoring of 40,000+ administrations, professional investigations and publications in support of examination programs

Client Services and Special Projects
  • Outside clients and project management
Approved actions for the NBDHE Practice Analysis:

- Practice analyses are used to determine examination content.
- Adopted 30 dental hygiene content areas for the safe, entry-level practice of dental hygiene based on results from an August 2014 survey of the dental hygiene community, and after grouping related content areas together.
- Directed the content areas be submitted to the dental community for commentary and that the JCNDE review this feedback for consideration.
- Updated practice analysis verbiage. “Clinical competencies” will now be referred to as “clinical content areas” and “clinical component sections” will be referred to as “clinical content sections.”
JCNDE Updates: April 2015 Meeting

Reaffirmed Joint Commission’s commitment to the quality and validity of its current examination programs (NBDE Parts I and II, and NBDHE). This includes the following:

• Adopted the recommendations of two independent standard setting committees for NBDE Parts I and II. Standard setting involves the establishment of a “cut score” that separates passing and failing candidates. The Joint Commission’s standards are criterion-referenced (i.e., established based on specific skill requirements), as opposed to norm-based. The two new standards will be scheduled for implementation no sooner than April 2016.

• Adopted a resolution to appoint an ad-hoc committee to review the Joint Commission’s case material development process and provide recommendations to improve the quality of all images viewed by candidates (particularly radiographic images).

• Reviewed the process of administering breaks (scheduled and unscheduled) during test administration, and directed staff to pursue revisions to reduce break violations.

• Reviewed progress in updating current examinations with enhancements identified for the INBDE, where appropriate.
JCNDE Updates: April 2015 Meeting (continued)

• Adopted a resolution to appoint an ad-hoc committee to conduct a comprehensive review of current irregularity appeals policies and procedures, with the support of Joint Commission staff, and that such committee report its progress and recommendations in 2016.
• Recommended two staff positions be added to the ADA Department of Testing Services in 2016 to strengthen test security efforts: Manager, Test Security; and Coordinator, Test Security.
• Approved the reappointment of Dental and Dental Hygiene examination test constructors and the appointment of primary and alternate test constructors for the Dental and Dental Hygiene examinations for 2016.
• Approved the 2014 editions of the *NBDE and NBDHE Technical Reports*.
• Approved a list of additional 2015 and 2016 research and development projects and expenditures.
Adopted proposed revisions to the Joint Commission’s **Standing Rules** and **Examination Regulations**, including:

- Modifications to clarify language and align it with prior Joint Commission decisions;
- Revisions to Examination Regulations, effective immediately;
- Revisions to Joint Commission Standing Rules, contingent upon approval of ADA’s House of Delegates.

The following clarifications involving irregularities are noteworthy:

- Candidates may not take an examination under a false identity. Candidates may not take an examination for another individual, nor can a candidate have another individual take an examination in their place.

- If the JCNDE finds reason to void the NBDE Part I results of an individual who has successfully completed the NBDE Part II and received National Board certification, the decision to void the NBDE Part I results may be stayed pending the outcome of an appeal or until the time for submission of an appeal has expired. The JCNDE will not report the candidate’s results until time has expired or the Joint Commission has rendered its decision concerning an appeal (whichever comes first).

Adopted proposed revisions to the Joint Commission’s bylaws, contingent upon approval by the House of Delegates. These revisions were editorial in nature to bring the bylaws into alignment with **ADA Bylaws** and current practices.
Approved the following, in support of communities of interest:

- Adopted a revised monthly reporting approach for dental schools and dental hygiene programs, based on data involving rolling 12-month intervals. This reporting approach will be implemented in 2017.
- Directed staff to publish findings from an investigation into the impact of pass/fail reporting on examinee performance. This study will be reported to both the dental and test publishing communities.
- Approved procedures for granting permission for dental and dental hygiene educational programs to use the Joint Commission’s released examination materials.
- Approved procedures for granting permission for educational programs to use case development and test item development guides for faculty development.
- Approved procedures for the sale of NBDHE 2006 and 2009 released examination materials to individuals for a fee to cover costs of production and distribution.
Approved actions consistent with the Joint Commission’s mission to serve as a leader and resource on assessment for the oral health care profession:

- Directed staff to continue to monitor the Commission on Dental Accreditation’s (CODA) activities regarding implementing an accreditation process for dental therapy education programs.
- Elected Dr. Luis J. Fujimoto as Chair and Dr. Marc E. Levitan as Vice Chair of the Joint Commission, effective November 2016.

Approved actions to help alleviate student debt:
- Examination fees reduced for all examination programs in 2016.
JCNDE Updates: January 2016 Teleconference

The Joint Commission held a teleconference on January 19, 2016. The following occurred at this meeting:

• Approved an INBDE Implementation Plan, and directed staff to communicate this plan to stakeholders and communities of interest.

• Reviewed developments involving the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), and CODA’s efforts involving the accreditation of dental therapy programs. In light of those efforts, the Joint Commission approved the following actions:
  – Review of the JCNDE Bylaws as they pertain to the potential development of a new dental therapy examination program.
  – Directed staff to develop a business plan and issue an announcement indicating the Joint Commission’s interest in building a new National Board Dental Therapy Examination for licensure purposes.
Call for Case Materials

The Joint Commission needs high quality case materials to support its examination programs. Please contribute to this effort.

For additional information:

Call for Help with Irregularities

• Please emphasize to your students the importance of keeping examination materials confidential.
• Please remind students of the examination’s purpose, its importance for public health outcomes, and the importance of each examinee passing the test based on his or her own skills.
• Please remind students sharing or using unreleased examination materials is prohibited and can come with severe consequences.
Standard Setting In Process

• In 2015, the JCNDE conducted standard setting activities for the NBDHE.
• These activities have direct implications for examination pass/fail rates.
• A conservative strategy for dental hygiene programs would involve encouraging students to study harder in preparation for the NBDHE and implementation of the new standard.
• In June 2016 the JCNDE will consider the panel’s findings and recommendation, make a decision concerning the new standard, and set deployment dates.
JCNDE

Test Administration Update

Nicholas B. Hussong, B.S. Manager, Test Administration
## Test Administration Volume 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responded to requests</th>
<th>45,000+ phone calls</th>
<th>34,000+ emails, faxes, and correspondence</th>
<th>79,000+ total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Processed applications</td>
<td>10,412 NBDE Part I 9,210 NBDE Part II</td>
<td>8,193 NBDHE</td>
<td>27,815 total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processed requests for additional official reports</td>
<td>19,494 NBDE Part I NBDE Part II</td>
<td>3,291 NBDHE</td>
<td>22,785 total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Test Administration and Fees

**Administration**
- Electronic registration process; six-month eligibility. Monitor website for upcoming enhancements.
- Administered nationwide at Pearson VUE Test Centers, any business day.
- About 3,540 available seats in 259 professional level testing centers.
- Secure test environment and video monitoring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Fees</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NBDHE</strong></td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee includes official reporting to candidate, program director of accredited dental hygiene school, and 3 licensing boards if requested on application. Candidate report is sent to address on application.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional official report**
Fee for recipients not selected at time of application. $35

**Audit Request**
$65

**National Board Certificate with Optional Frames**
Available upon successful completion of NBDHE. See JCNDE website
### Avoid problems on testing day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bring Two Original, Current IDs</th>
<th>Follow Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Government issued ID with photograph and signature (driver's license or passport; not expired)</td>
<td>• Store personal items in locker and DO NOT access during testing or unscheduled breaks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Signature ID (Social Security card, credit card, debit card, library card)</td>
<td>• No cell phone use allowed during testing or unscheduled breaks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Empty your pockets.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID Name MUST Match Application Name</th>
<th>Immediately Notify Administrator of Testing Condition Problems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Match: Joseph Anthony Smith and Joseph A. Smith</td>
<td>Concerns not resolved on test day must be submitted in writing to JCNDE within five business days of testing appointment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Non-match: Joseph Anthony Smith and Joseph Smith-Johnson (hyphenated last names)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Current Test Administration Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Board Dental Hygiene Examination</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional tutorial</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session one</strong>: Discipline-based items; 200 items</td>
<td>3.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional scheduled break</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session two</strong>: Patient case items; 150 items</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional post-examination survey</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Time</strong></td>
<td>9 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The NBDHE administration schedule will change in 2016 to allow more frequent scheduled breaks. Total testing time remains unchanged.

### National Board Dental Hygiene Examination

| Session One: Discipline-based items (100 items) | 3 hours 30 minutes plus optional 15-minute scheduled break |
| Optional 15 minute scheduled break after the 100th question |
| Session one: Discipline-based items (100 items) |  |
| Optional scheduled break | 30 minutes |
| Session two: 7-8 Patient cases (approximately 75 items) | 4 hours plus optional 15-minute scheduled break |
| Optional 15 minute scheduled break |
| Session two: 7-8 Patient cases (approximately 75 items) |
| Optional Post-examination Survey | 15 minutes |
| Total Time | 9 hours |
The ADA offers testing accommodations to those with a qualified impairment or medical condition to provide equal access to testing. Information concerning testing accommodations will not be shared outside of the JCNDE and the Test Center, and will not be indicated on test results, reported to dental schools, nor provided to additional report recipients.

To request accommodations, submit the following in a single attachment to testingaccommodations@ada.org:

- Testing Accommodation Request Form indicating the impairment or medical condition and the request for accommodations.
- Current evaluation report from an appropriate health care professional. The report should include:
  - Specific diagnostic procedures and tests administered.
  - Results and interpretation of the diagnostic procedures and tests.
  - Diagnosis of the impairment or medical condition, with description of limitations.
  - Recommendations for testing accommodations.

Candidates must request testing accommodations with each application, but will not be required to submit additional documentation for the same impairment with subsequent retests. For subsequent applications, candidates are required to submit only the testing accommodations form.
Testing accommodations provided over the last several years.
Examination Volume

Testing volume as reported by Pearson VUE.

NBDHE Monthly Volume
## Rescheduling Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To reschedule a testing appointment:</th>
<th>$25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Pearson VUE directly and pay a fee to reschedule.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow at least one full business day (24 hours) before the current testing appointment and reschedule the new testing appointment within the authorized eligibility period.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-shows forfeit their admissions fee. Contractual agreements with Pearson Vue require JCNDE payment for testing cancellations when proper notice is not received.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rescheduling and No-Show Volume

NBDHE Rescheduling and No-Show Volume (‘12-’15)

- 2012: 1,364 reschedules, 71 no-shows
- 2013: 1,265 reschedules, 97 no-shows
- 2014: 1,329 reschedules, 64 no-shows
- 2015: 1,197 reschedules, 69 no-shows
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Reports</th>
<th>Scoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NBDHE results reported as pass/fail as of January 1, 2012.</strong></td>
<td>Candidate score is computed based on the total number of correct answers. Number correct score is converted to a scale score, which adjusts for minor differences in difficulty across forms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For remediation purposes, failing candidates receive numerical scores for each major discipline covered on the test.</td>
<td>Scale scores range from 49 to 99, with 75 representing the minimum passing score (regardless of test form).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a candidate tested prior to 2012, numerical scores for prior attempts will be reported.</td>
<td>NBDHE is a <strong>criterion-referenced examination</strong>. Minimum passing score is determined by experts through standard setting activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official reports are mailed approximately three weeks after testing.</td>
<td>Detailed score analysis provided in NBDHE Technical Report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCNDE regulations prohibit reporting results by telephone, fax, email, or in person.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Retesting

90-day wait required between retests.

Candidates who have passed the NBDHE may not retest unless required by state board or relevant regulatory agency.

Candidates who have not passed after three attempts will be required to wait 12 months after their third attempt before they can retest.

After the 12-month waiting period has lapsed, a new cycle will apply. Candidates are encouraged to seek formal remediation before retesting.

Candidates must pass the examination within five years of their first attempt or five examination attempts, whichever comes first. This policy applies to examination attempts on or after January 1, 2012.
Testing Irregularities and Appeals

**Definition of Irregularity:** there is a question about the validity of test results accurately reflecting the candidate’s ability and skills.

Reasons for withholding scores include, but are not limited to:

- Unusual answer patterns.
- Atypical score increases from one testing attempt to another.
- Inconsistent performance on different parts of test.
- Improper access to secure test content.
- Test administration irregularity.
- Falsification of personal identification, application information/supporting documents.
- Violation of rules/regulations.
- Falsification of official report.
- Information indicating results may not be valid.

**Irregularity detection and investigation:**

- Testing vendor irregularity reports or miscellaneous source (e.g., anonymous tips, routine audit procedures).
- Conduct investigation.
- Take action (e.g. withhold score, retest restriction)

**Notification/Appeal Process**

- Candidate notified; 30 days to submit appeal.
- Appeal forwarded to Chair.
- Chair grants, denies, or forwards appeal to JCNDE for ballot.
- Candidate notified of decision.
## Post Test Survey
Presented upon completion of exam at testing center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NBDHE</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The tutorial at the beginning of the exam helped me learn how to navigate through the exam.</td>
<td>7536</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I knew how to use the computer to take the exam.</td>
<td>7407</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The quality of the radiographs was sufficient to answer the questions.</td>
<td>7411</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The quality of the clinical photographs was sufficient to answer the questions.</td>
<td>7411</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The quality of the images' labels and arrows was sufficient to answer the questions.</td>
<td>7402</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had sufficient time to complete the exam.</td>
<td>7409</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = Number of respondents. Responses provided in percentage of respondents.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Percent Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did the directions we provided to the test center make it easy to find?</td>
<td>97.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was the waiting room/reception area clean?</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was the test center staff professional and courteous?</td>
<td>98.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you arrived with the proper ID and met all of the admission requirements, were you seated within 30 minutes of your scheduled testing time?</td>
<td>98.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the answer is no, were you offered the opportunity to reschedule your exam?</td>
<td>99.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you asked to show valid photo identification (e.g., valid driver's license or passport)?</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you instructed to store your personal items (purse, bag, pager, mobile phone, books or food) in a locker?</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you provided a copy of the Rules Agreement to read before entering the testing room?</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did an administrator explain that you would be audio and video monitored before you entered the testing room?</td>
<td>96.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was the workstation where you tested clean?</td>
<td>99.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was the room you tested in quiet?</td>
<td>93.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was the administrator responsive when you needed assistance (e.g., when your exam ended, if you needed help, etc.)?</td>
<td>99.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was your identity verified using fingerprint, palm scan, or valid photo identification each and every time you exited or entered the testing room (such as during a break)?</td>
<td>99.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you, or any other candidates, allowed to bring any food or drink items with you to the computer while you tested?</td>
<td>93.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did the administrator collect exam materials provided to you?</td>
<td>99.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How satisfied were you with the quality of service the test center staff provided?</td>
<td>94.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How satisfied were you with the room in which you tested?</td>
<td>90.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall, how satisfied were you with the testing facility?</td>
<td>92.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you able to take your test at your preferred test center?</td>
<td>Y 89% N 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you satisfied with the date of your appointment?</td>
<td>Y 93% N 5% Do not recall 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you provided a date among your top 3 choices?</td>
<td>Y 76% N 11% Do Not Recall 13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Satisfaction: 96.51%
Infrastructure Improvements

• **DTS Hub:** The DTS Hub is an electronic portal through which schools and state boards will be able to view National Board results. The Hub was designed in 2015 and will be implemented in 2016.

• **My Account result reporting:** My Account is an electronic portal through which candidates can track their National Board applications and results requests. By the end of 2016 candidates will also be able to view their NB results through the My Account portal.

• **Live Chat:** In early 2016 the website was updated to include a live chat feature so that candidates can interact with Test Administration staff in real time through this feature.
# NBDHE Preparation Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Counseling</td>
<td>Your academic institution/dental hygiene program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application FAQs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guides</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released Item Sets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results Reports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Testing Day Checklist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Accommodations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ADA Websites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADA Websites</th>
<th>Partnerships and Commissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADA.org</strong> Access member benefits and ADA policy</td>
<td><strong>Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations</strong> Learn about the examinations used in licensing dentists and dental hygienists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADA Store</strong> Purchase ADA products</td>
<td><strong>MouthHealthy</strong> Find oral-health information for the public on ADA’s award-winning site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADA Annual Meeting</strong> Attend ADA’s premier event</td>
<td><strong>Commission on Dental Accreditation</strong> Explore CODA’s role and find accredited schools and programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADA Center for Professional Success</strong> Access member-only practice content</td>
<td><strong>Partnership for Healthy Mouths, Healthy Lives</strong> View the campaign and resources for children’s oral health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADA Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry
- Find evidence to support your clinical decisions

ADA Business Resources
- Take advantage of endorsed, discounted business products

ADA Foundation
- Make a difference with dentistry’s premier charitable organization

**MouthHealthy**
- Find oral-health information for the public on ADA’s award-winning site

**2min2x.org**
- Visit the Ad Council’s children’s oral health website

These examinations assess the ability to understand important information from basic biomedical and dental/dental hygiene sciences and also the ability to apply such information in a problem-solving context.

Specific dental and dental hygiene licensure requirements vary among jurisdictions, but all jurisdictions have three basic requirements: an educational requirement, a written examination requirement and a clinical examination requirement. You must complete all three for basic licensure requirements.
National Board Dental Hygiene Examination General Information

Apply to Take the NBDHE

Schedule a Time to Take the Examination

Exam Preparation Material and Helpful Information

Examination Item Development Guide

NBDHE Results Information and Audit Request

NBDHE Competency Survey
News and Resources

- Case Materials
- JCNDE Actions
- Meeting Presentations
- Newsletters
- Reference Texts
- Technical Report (detailed scoring information)
- Test Construction
Examination Volume, Performance Trends, and Research and Development Activities

Dr. Chien-Lin Yang
Manager, Research and Development/Psychometrics
Overview

• Trends in NBDHE Administration Volume
• Trends in NBDHE Failure Rates
• Dental Hygiene Practice Analysis
• Standard Setting for the NBDHE
• Electronic Score Reporting
NBDHE Administrations (2006-2015)

Figure 3: NBDHE Administrations (2006-2015)

[Graph showing NBDHE Administrations from 2006 to 2015, comparing Total, Accredited, and Non-Accredited administrations.]
** A new standard was introduced this year, based on updated standard setting activities.
2015 Research and Development Activities

- NBDHE practice analysis highlights:
  - Validity is a primary indicator of test quality.
  - A chief component of the validity argument is content validity – ensure the relevance and representativeness of content appearing on the examination.
  - To provide this content-related validity evidence, it is necessary to periodically review and define the domain of knowledge, skills, and abilities that are relevant to the safe, entry-level practice of dental hygiene. This is done through a practice analysis.
### Overview of Practice Analysis Activities (A Multistep Approach)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Key Tasks and Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identification and establishment of a dental hygiene competency framework for practice analysis purposes. (2014 &amp; 2015)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Development of a dental hygiene practice analysis survey, to understand the tasks performed and their criticality to patient care. (2016)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Administration of the practice analysis survey to entry-level dental hygienists. (2016)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Development of recommended test specifications based on practice analysis findings and the judgment of a review panel consisting of subject matter experts. (2016)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Joint Commission review of panel findings, and approval of test specifications to be implemented. (2017)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Test Construction Committees begin working to develop new NBDHE forms, adhering to the final, updated test specifications. (2017/2018)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Publication of updated forms to Pearson Vue test centers. (2018/2019)</td>
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The preceding multistep practice analysis approach was approved in 2014.

Activity in 2015 involved reviewing and revising dental hygiene clinical content areas:
- In April and May of 2015, the Committee on Dental Hygiene reviewed feedback from communities of interest concerning a set of 43 dental hygiene clinical content areas.
- Based on this review and the feedback received, the Committee recommended changes and consolidation of certain areas.
- In June 2015, the Joint Commission reviewed the recommendations of the Committee and adopted 30 dental hygiene content areas as the content areas required for the safe, entry-level practice of dental hygiene. Staff was also directed to submit the approved content areas to the dental community for review and commentary.
Example survey question within the “Diagnosis and Treatment Planning” clinical content area:

1. How relevant is the following clinical content area to dental hygiene practice?

   Systematically collect, analyze, and record diagnostic data on the general, oral, and psychosocial health status of populations and patients using methods consistent with medicolegal principles.

   Highly Relevant…..Relevant ..... Somewhat Relevant ..... Not Relevant

   ❖ Survey results from the dental community were very positive.
2015 Research and Development Activities

• Standard Setting for the NBDHE
  
  “Standard setting” refers to the structured process by which subject matter experts (SMEs) recommend a performance standard for an examination.

  Standard setting activities are used to set the cut score that separates passing and failing candidates for the NBDHE.

  The identification of a cut score represents subject matter experts’ collective judgment concerning the skill level required for safe practice; those with scores below the cut score have an unacceptably high likelihood of making serious errors in the practice of dental hygiene.

  The Joint Commission periodically conducts standard setting activities to ensure the appropriateness of the cut score.
The current cut score for the NBDHE was identified through standard setting activities conducted in the fourth quarter of 2010.

An NBDHE standard setting panel was convened in May 2015.

The standard setting activity was facilitated by Dr. Gregory Cizek, a nationally recognized expert in standard setting.

The panel has recommended a new cut score that raises the standard for the NBDHE.

In June 2016 the JCNDE will consider the panel’s recommendation, make a decision concerning the new standard, and set deployment dates.
Electronic Score Reporting for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination

- The Joint Commission had previously adopted a resolution to develop a secure website where dental schools, dental hygiene programs, and state boards could access test results electronically.

- An electronic score reporting site provides the following advantages:
  - Allows dental schools and dental hygiene programs to access student results online.
  - Allows state boards to access the results of candidates currently under review.
  - Improves customer service by enabling users to access and review results more easily.
2015 Research and Development Activities

Current Status

- In 2015, Joint Commission staff and ADA IT staff collaborated to design an official website, the DTS Hub, where authorized users could obtain official results and approve applications electronically for examinations administered by the Department of Testing Services.

- The DTS Hub will be a portal through which stakeholders can view official dental board results.

- The DTS Hub is expected to improve security, as well as search, sort, and reporting functions.

- The DTS Hub is scheduled to be built and tested during the first nine months of 2016, and launched in September 2016.
Implementation of electronic reporting requires the following changes (subject to JCNDE approval in June 2016):

- Candidates who tested via paper (as opposed to computer) will not be able to view the number of items they answered correctly and the national average score for each discipline.
  - Affects NBDHE candidates who tested prior to 2009.
- State boards will see the following reporting changes:
  - Subject-based scale scores for attempts made under conjunctive scoring will no longer appear.
  - The following two statements will not appear on electronic reports:
    - Candidate has achieved a standard score of 75 or higher on the NBDHE and has therefore successfully completed requirements for the National Board Certificate.
    - Candidate has achieved a standard score below 75 on the NBDHE and is required to repeat the examination.
2015 Research and Development Activities

JOINT COMMISSION ON NATIONAL DENTAL EXAMINATIONS
211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60611-2637

Report Date: March 07, 2016
DENTPIN?

NATIONAL BOARD DENTAL HYGIENE EXAMINATION (NBDHE)

Name

DENTPIN

Graduation

School

Test Date (MM/YYYY)

Score

Status

*Candidate has achieved a standard score of 75 or higher on the NBDHE and has therefore successfully completed requirements for the National Board Certificate.

Test Date

Score

Status
2015 Research and Development Activities
Q & A
Contact Information

Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations
800-232-1694
nbexams@ada.org

David M. Waldschmidt, Ph.D.
Director
Department of Testing Services
waldschmidt@ada.org

Kathleen J. Hinshaw, L.D.H., Ed.D.
Senior Manager, Operations/DTS
hinshaw@ada.org

Ellen J. Ryske, M.B.A., P.M.P.
Manager, Client Services/Special Projects
ryskee@ada.org

OPEN
Manager, Test Development

Nicholas B. Hussong, B.A.
Manager, Test Administration
hussongn@ada.org

Chien-Lin Yang, Ph.D.
Manager, Research and Development/Psychometrics
yangc@ada.org