

**Unofficial Report of Major Actions
Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations
April 9, 2014**

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations met at the American Dental Association (ADA) Headquarters on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 8-9, 2014, and took the following actions:

1. Approved the Joint Commission's budget proposal, including 2015 application fees and score report request fees. The total examination fees charged in 2015 to candidates will be \$420 for the NBDE Part I, \$465 for the NBDE Part II, and \$410 for the NBDHE. Candidates from non-accredited institutions will be assessed an additional \$100 processing fee at the time of application. Score report request fees in 2015 will be \$34.
2. Approved two key reports pertaining to the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE), a written examination that will supplant National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Parts I and II in the future. The first report provided operational recommendations in the following areas:
 - The Concepts of Integration, Clinical Relevance, and Examination Purpose
 - Item Presentation Considerations Involving Content
 - Language Conventions
 - Administration Conditions
 - Item Writing Standards
 - Item Content Standards
 - Item Writing/Review Process
 - Item Classification/Tagging Approach
 - Field Testing Approach

The second report presented INBDE model examination items, which are intended to serve as prototypes of items that could appear on the INBDE. The Joint Commission is now positioned to begin item development for an INBDE field test. The Joint Commission will provide stakeholders and communities of interest with at least four years' advance notice prior to formal implementation of the INBDE.

3. Reaffirmed the Joint Commission's commitment to the quality and validity of its current examination programs (NBDE Parts I and II, National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE)). This includes the following:
 - Approved an updated practice analysis approach for the NBDHE. Practice analyses are used to help determine the content that appears on an examination.
 - Approved updating the Joint Commission's approach to standard setting activities for the NBDE Parts I and II. Standard setting activities are used to help determine the passing score for an examination.
 - Affirmed the Joint Commission's existing practices with respect to the use of cognitive levels within test construction committee meetings. Cognitive levels are used by the Joint Commission to encourage quality item development.
 - In accordance with the Joint Commission's policy of building examination content that treats individuals fairly and with sensitivity, approved enhanced training to Test Construction Committee members concerning fairness and sensitivity considerations in examination development.

- Approved incorporating various enhancements identified for the INBDE, directly into the Joint Commission's current examinations, where appropriate.
 - Approved investigation into the quality of case materials—particularly radiographic images—to identify activities to improve the quality of those materials.
 - 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 2015.
 - Approved the 2013 editions of the NBDE and NBDHE Technical Reports.
 - Approved a list of additional 2014 and 2015 research and development projects and expenditures.
4. Adopted proposed revisions to the Joint Commission's Standing Rules and Examination Regulations. This includes editorial modifications to clarify language within each document and align language more closely with prior Joint Commission decisions. The following clarifications/changes are noteworthy:
- The Joint Commission affirmed that the predominant consideration with respect to appeal and testing accommodations decisions concerns the validity of examination results.
 - A candidate's eligibility to take an examination may be revoked if the Joint Commission has reason to believe that the candidate is taking an examination for purposes other than National Board certification.
 - The Joint Commission has updated its privacy policy to permit the Joint Commission to release examination results—with personally identifying information removed—to legitimately interested parties for research and policy making purposes.
 - Candidates who receive information concerning unreleased examination content should destroy the information immediately without reviewing it. Candidates who have been found to be in possession of such information—or to have participated in the distribution of this information—may have their examination results voided. Penalties may be imposed subsequent to discovery and investigation of the original incident, which may occur years after the incident itself.

Revisions to Examination Regulations are effective immediately; revisions to Joint Commission Standing Rules are contingent upon approval by the ADA's House of Delegates.

5. Approved the following in support of communities of interest:
- 3-year renewal of the Joint Commission's licensing agreement with the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), concerning sales of NBDE released item content.
 - a resolution requesting that the Committee on Administration—in consultation with the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and other appropriate stakeholders—investigate modifications to or the elimination of the 12 month retest requirement and report back to the Joint Commission with its recommendation.
 - procedures for granting permission for use of the Joint Commission's released examination materials by dental and dental hygiene educational programs.
 - procedures for granting permission to educational programs for use of the Case Development and Test Item Development Guides by dental schools for faculty development.
 - procedures for the sale of NBDHE 2006 and 2009 released examination materials to individuals for a fee to cover costs of production and distribution.
6. 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 monitor the activities of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) as it develops accreditation standards for dental therapy education programs.

- Approved the Joint Commission's self-assessment for transmittal to the ADA House of Delegates per Resolution 1H-2013.
7. Sunset the Joint Commission's Innovative Dental Assessment (IDEA) Grant Program, effective April 9, 2014. This program was no longer meeting its intended goals.
 8. Elected Dr. Robert A. Hersh as Chair and Dr. M.H. Reggie VanderVeen as Vice Chair of the Joint Commission. Their terms will begin in October of 2014.
 9. The previously approved meeting date for 2015 is April 29. At its April 2014 meeting, the Joint Commission approved April 13, 2016 as the scheduled meeting date for 2016.

Dr. Connie L. Drisko (ADEA), Chair
Dr. LeeAnn Podruch (AADB), Vice Chair
Dr. Luis J. Fujimoto (AADB)
Ms. Mary Lou Gerosky (ADHA)
Dr. Robert A. Hersh (ADA)
Ms. Jiwon Lee (ASDA)
Dr. Marc E. Levitan (ADEA)
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Dr. Rhett L. Murray (ADA)
Dr. Patricia A. Parker (AADB)
Dr. David W. Perkins (AADB)
Dr. Lorin D. Peterson (ADA)
Ms. Kelley Shannon (Public)
Dr. M.H. Reggie VanderVeen (AADB)

Dr. Brian E. Scott (ADA Board Liaison)