Welcome to the Joint Commission on National Board Dental Examinations (JCNDE) newsletter. The JCNDE held its annual meeting in Chicago on April 13-14, 2010. This edition of the newsletter will report on actions taken by the JCNDE, the new JCNDE website, DENTPIN updates, score reports, writing JCNDE questions and other "need to know" information.

## JCNDE Annual Meeting

Learn about some of the major actions taken by the JCNDE at its recent meeting.

- Approved the appointment of an ad hoc committee to investigate the development of a web-based...
Approved the retention and use of both generic and trade names for prescription medications on the National Board Examinations.

Approved the methodology and findings of the practice analysis conducted in support of the validity of the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, and adopted changes to the specifications in accordance with the findings. These revised specifications take effect in 2011.

The JCNDE approved a change in the dental hygiene test specifications and construction protocol so that the numbers of items assigned to the major categories and subcategories of the test specifications will be considered guides. These numbers will be removed from the published Guide. Only the primary content topic area number will be provided.

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 examination for 2011.

Approved of a change in the test construction protocol for dental examinations such that the number of items in major discipline categories of the test specifications be required, while the number of items in subcategory levels be used as guides in examination development and the subcategories will be removed from the published dental specifications.

The JCNDE's IDEA small grants program approved full funding, in the amount of $55,033, to support the research proposed by David Shin, Ph.D. Senior Research Scientist, Pearson, entitled Implications of Converting the NBDE and the NBDHE to a Computerized Adaptive Testing Format.

Approved the development of a Request for Proposals to provide a model for reporting...
diagnostic normative sub scores for dental schools and dental hygiene programs for evaluation purposes when the JCDNE begins to report performance as Pass/Fail only.

This new vehicle for reporting information to dental schools will replace the dental school profiles that will be discontinued in 2012 and should provide general information to assist programs in assessing areas of strength and weakness in relation to exam performance.

- The JCNDE considered requests from the ADEA and ASDA related to performance on the Part II examination in 2009.

In 2008, the pass/fail point for Part II was reviewed and a revised standard was recommended by a panel of experts. This process of reviewing the pass/fail point (standard setting) is routinely done every five years. When the new standard was implemented in 2009, an increase in the failure rate on Part II was observed. It is not unusual for the failure rate to increase when a new standard is set.

The Joint Commission concluded that the standard was set correctly and took no action on requests to repeat standard setting prior to 2013, shorten the time required between retakes of Part II for failing candidates or to reduce the fee for retaking Part II. The JCNDE's decisions were based on extensive review of data and research on examination results and procedures for scoring.

- Ms. Kelley Shannon was elected as the public member on the Joint Commission for the years 2011-2015. Ms. Diane M. Dank was elected as the alternate candidate, in the event Ms. Shannon is unable to accept the appointment.

Dr. Andrew Spielman was elected as chair and Dr. George "Buck" Conard, Jr. was elected as vice chair of the Joint Commission for terms beginning October 2010.

New JCNDE Website
The ADA website underwent a major revision and made its debut at the end of March 2010. A component of the reconstruction was the development of a micro site for the JCNDE. The web pages now display the unique logo and color scheme of the JCNDE.

If you haven't seen the new website, take a few minutes for a tour. The address of the JCNDE landing page is ADA.org/JCNDE.aspx. Bookmark this address now to ensure easy access to the site later.

Review and reorganization of content is continuing to improve ease of use. The content of the website remains the same but the landing page has several buttons across the top to organize the information in an easy to access format. The right hand side of the each page indicates your current position within the site and provides options for other commonly used links. It may be useful to have these links listed in your "Favorites" since the old links will no longer work.

The JCNDE site can also be reached from the landing page of ADA.org by following these steps.

1. Across the top of the ADA landing page, select the Education and Careers button.
2. On the left side of the next page select Testing.
3. On the left side of the next page select National Board Dental Examinations.
4. On the next page click on the link to JCNDE in the first paragraph.

Once on JCNDE landing page, note that the JCNDE page opens in a separate window. Within the JCNDE site, the back button can be used to navigate among the JCNDE pages. Navigation can also be accomplished by using the links along the top or side of a page.

The back button will not work to get back to the ADA website. The JCNDE window must be minimized or closed to access the ADA website. The ADA page should still be running in the background unless it was closed.

**DENTPIN Update**

The DENTPIN is the unique personal identifier that is now
required for all candidates taking National Board examinations. The process of registering for a DENTPIN has gone smoothly for the majority of candidates but here are a few tips for new users.

- A DENTPIN must be obtained before applying for any National Board examination.

- Once a DENTPIN has been obtained, an application must still be completed.

- Anyone who has taken the DAT or a National Board examination in the past has been assigned a DENTPIN; however it is necessary to go to the DENTPIN site to retrieve it.

- Retrieval of a DENTPIN is immediate if a Social Security Number (SSN) is used on the DENTPIN application.

- If the SSN is not included, the DENTPIN application will need to be processed manually which may take up to a week.

**Requesting Score Reports**

The National Board examination application fee covers sending score reports to a limited number of individuals/agencies. Additional score reports can be requested for an extra fee.

The National Board Part I examination application fee includes one score report for the candidate and one for the dean of the accredited school the candidate is attending.

The National Board Part II examination application fee includes one score report for the candidate, one for the dean of the accredited dental school the candidate is attending and up to three reports to dental licensing jurisdictions.

The National Board Dental Hygiene examination application fee includes one score report for the candidate, one for the dental hygiene program director and up to three reports to dental licensing boards.
If additional score reports are desired, they must be requested on the separate score report request form. This form is available online at ADA.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/score_report.pdf.

The fee is $25 for each score report. Please wait at least four weeks after testing before requesting additional score reports. It can take up to four weeks before official scores are available.

CIE: Committee for an Integrated Examination

The CIE met in January 2010 and is scheduled to meet two more times this year. The committee charge is to develop and validate a new comprehensive dental examination that integrates basic, behavioral, and clinical sciences to assess entry level competency in dental practice. The committee will consider the potential for a new examination to supplant Part I and Part II at some point in the future.

Two work groups were formed at the first meeting. One group was charged with defining the domain of dentistry. This information may serve as a starting point for potentially developing the content specification for an integrated examination.

The second group was charged with compiling an inventory of item types that could be used on an integrated examination.

It is important to keep in mind that the work of the CIE is a long term (5 years or more) project; however, the Joint Commission wants all stakeholders to be informed of the process and proposed changes.

JCNDE: Do You Want To Participate In Developing The Examinations?

There are several ways qualified individuals can contribute to the Dental and Dental Hygiene examinations. One way is to become a member of a test construction committee.

An announcement is made every November indicating test
construction committee (TCC) vacancies. Interested individuals should submit an application.

Applications are reviewed and appointments are made by the JCNDE at its annual meeting each spring with appointments becoming effective the following year. For example, an individual who submits an application in November 2010 and is appointed will begin serving on a TCC in 2012.

Test construction committee meetings are held in Chicago and participants are reimbursed for travel related expenses. More information can be found on the JCNDE web site on the Test Construction page at ADA.org/2291.aspx.

Another way to participate in National Board examination development is to provide case material that can use as a basis for questions. Case material should be submitted in electronic format and must be of the highest quality for acceptance. A $500 stipend is paid for case materials that are accepted.

More information, including the details of exactly what type of material is needed, can be found on the Educator Content page of the JCNDE website at ADA.org/2287.aspx.

Practitioners are also encouraged to submit case materials.

Use of White Boards and Markers at Test Centers

If you are involved with candidates who take National Board examinations, you have probably heard more than one person comment on the use of white boards and markers rather than scratch paper and pencil at testing centers.

The decision to use white boards and markers was made to prevent candidates from using sheets of paper to gain an unfair advantage during the examination or to provide information to others.

Erasers are provided for the white boards and the markers have a fine tip. If a new marker, eraser, or white board is needed, the candidate need only raise a hand and a
proctor will provide assistance.

A helpful tip to share with candidates is to recap the marker when it is not in use to prevent the tip from drying out prematurely.

**JCNDE Presentations at the 2010 ADEA Meeting**

Updates on examination issues were provided to educators and students at the 2010 ADEA meeting. PowerPoint slides for these presentations can be found on the JCNDE website under the "Educator Content" button at this address [ADA.org/2287.aspx](http://ADA.org/2287.aspx).

**Welcome ASDA Members**

This copy of the JCNDE newsletter is the first edition that will be available to all ASDA members via a link in the ASDA e-mail newsletter "Word of Mouth". We hope the information is enlightening and useful. Comments and/or questions are welcome.

**Reminders**

Don't miss these summaries of important policy changes and dates of implementation.

- Effective this past January 1, 2010, candidates who pass any National Board examination (Part I, Part II, or Dental Hygiene) are not allowed to retest unless required by a State Board.

- The implementation of a Pass/Fail scoring system for National Board examinations (Part I, Part II and Dental Hygiene) will take effect on January 1, 2012.

- The Dental and Dental Hygiene Educational Program Profiles will be discontinued on January 1, 2012 when score reporting on the National Board examinations becomes Pass/Fail. The JCNDE is exploring options that would provide feedback to dental schools and dental hygiene programs that could be used for evaluation purposes.

- Previous editions of this newsletter can be found online at [ADA.org/2288.aspx](http://ADA.org/2288.aspx). It may be necessary to
scroll down on the page.

If there is additional information you would like to see covered in these newsletters, please let us know. Your comments and suggestions are encouraged and welcome. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Send any e-mail comments regarding the newsletter to me at education@ADA.org.

Sincerely,

Bruce D. Horn, DDS
Chair, Joint Commission On National Dental Examinations