

**Unofficial Report of Major Actions  
Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations  
April 29, 2015**

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations met at the American Dental Association (ADA) Headquarters on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, and took the following actions:

1. Approved the Joint Commission's budget proposal, including 2016 candidate fees. The total examination fees charged in 2016 to candidates will be \$380 for the NBDE Part I, \$425 for the NBDE Part II, and \$400 for the NBDHE. Candidates from non-accredited institutions will be assessed a \$125 processing fee at the time of application. Score report request fees in 2016 will be \$35. The above examination fees are reduced relative to those in place in 2015, due to lower than expected research and development costs.
2. Approved additional operational recommendations 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. Most notably, the Joint Commission approved item writing conventions concerning the INBDE Patient Box, a new way of presenting patient information. Item writing for the INBDE is underway, with field testing anticipated for 2016. 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:
  - Adopted the recommendations of two separate, 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 normatively 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 which will reduce the likelihood of break violations.
  - Outlined additional steps to refine the dental hygiene competency framework that will be used for practice analysis purposes for the NBDHE. Practice analyses are used to help determine the content that appears on an examination.
  - Reviewed progress in incorporating various enhancements identified for the INBDE directly into the Joint Commission's current examinations, where appropriate.
  - Adopted a resolution to appoint an ad-hoc committee to conduct a comprehensive review of current irregularity/appeals policies and procedures, with the assistance and support of Joint Commission staff, in-house legal counsel, and others as appropriate, and that such committee report its progress and any recommendations to the Joint Commission in 2016.
  - Recommended that the following two positions be added to the ADA Department of Testing Services in 2016 to strengthen test security efforts: Manager, Test Security; 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.
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. Revisions to Examination Regulations are effective immediately; revisions to Joint Commission Standing Rules are contingent upon approval by the 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).
  5. Adopted proposed revisions to the *Joint Commission's Bylaws*, contingent upon approval by the ADA's House of Delegates. These revisions were editorial in nature, updating the *Bylaws* and bringing them into alignment with *ADA Bylaws* and current practices.
  6. 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 use of the Joint Commission's released examination materials by dental and dental hygiene educational programs.
    - Approved procedures for granting permission to educational programs for use of the Case Development and Test Item Development Guides by dental schools 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.
  7. 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 activities of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) regarding potential implementation of a process of accreditation for dental therapy education programs.
  8. Elected Dr. Luis J. Fujimoto as Chair and Dr. Marc E. Levitan as Vice Chair of the Joint Commission. Their terms will begin in November of 2015.
  9. Approved April 26, 2017 as the scheduled meeting date for 2017.

Dr. Robert A. Hersh (ADA), Chair  
Dr. M.H. Reggie VanderVeen (AADB), Vice Chair  
Dr. Dale R. Chamberlain (AADB)  
Dr. Melissa G. Efurd (ADHA)

Dr. Luis J. Fujimoto (AADB)  
Dr. Lisa Heinrich-Null (ADA)  
Dr. Marc E. Levitan (ADEA)  
Dr. Frank W. Licari (ADEA)  
Mr. Kristopher Mendoza (ASDA)  
Dr. Rhett L. Murray (ADA)  
Dr. Nader A. Nadershahi (ADEA)  
Dr. Patricia A. Parker (AADB)  
Dr. David W. Perkins (AADB)  
Dr. William F. Robinson (AADB)  
Ms. Issie L. Shelton Jenkins (Public)

Dr. Robert N. Bitter (ADA Board Liaison)