

Unofficial Report of Major Actions

Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations Governance, Policies, & Administration (GPA) Meeting June 25, 2025 and August 4, 2025 (**UPDATED**¹)

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) met on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, for its annual Governance, Policies, & Administration (GPA) Meeting and took the following actions:

1. Reaffirmed the JCNDE's long-term commitment to the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) and Dental Hygiene Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DHLOSCE), through activities such as the following:
 - Reviewing communication efforts to advance and promote utilization of the DLOSCE and DHLOSCE, including the JCNDE's participation in an ADA Board of Trustees Workgroup to help promote, market, and encourage increased acceptance of the DLOSCE and the DHLOSCE.
 - Reviewing upcoming test administration dates for the DHLOSCE. The DHLOSCE is anticipated to be available for administration in the 4th quarter of 2025.
2. Adopted a change to the retesting policy for the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) and National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) programs. This change specifically concerns the Five Years/Five Attempts Retesting Policy. The policy as of June 25, 2025 was as follows:

If either of the following two conditions are true: 1) a National Board Examination candidate has made five examination attempts; or 2) five years have passed since a National Board Examination candidate's first administration; then the candidate shall be limited to testing once every 12 months after their most recent attempt.

In its meeting the JCNDE modified the last phrase within this policy, enabling INBDE and NBDHE candidates to test once every 6 months after their most recent examination attempt, as opposed to once every 12 months. The change in this policy continues to protect the public. The role of the examinations of the JCNDE is to obtain information on whether a candidate has the required level of skills to safely practice. If a candidate passes the INBDE or NBDHE they have demonstrated that they have the required level of skills to safely practice, regardless of whether this takes place at the initial administration, at 6 months, or at 12 months. The JCNDE further noted that this updated policy cannot be appealed by candidates. This policy is effective immediately.

3. Reviewed information pertinent to the on-boarding process for new Commissioners, including survey feedback from Commissioners. High stakes licensure examinations that are valid, reliable, and fair are extremely complex to develop, as are the policies associated with their administration and reporting. The Joint Commission continues its

¹ This report has been updated to include decisions by the JCNDE at a follow-up meeting on August 4, 2025. These decisions are reported in an addendum appearing at the end of this report.

efforts to prepare Commissioners appropriately for this important role. With respect to the filling of Commissioner vacancies, the JCNDE approved a resolution instituting required on-boarding timelines—up to 2 months, depending on scheduling constraints and availability—to help ensure that new Commissioners receive appropriate instruction before beginning their service.

4. Reviewed the JCNDE's procedures with respect to the selection of a new Public Member. The JCNDE will have a need for a new Public Member in 2026, with corresponding service to occur between October 2026 and October 2030. Formal qualifications and requirements will be posted online, with announcements occurring shortly thereafter to solicit applications that will be due in April 2026. The selection of the new Public Member will take place at the June 2026 Governance, Policies, & Administration Meeting. The JCNDE requests that communities of interest consider mentioning the JCNDE's need for a new Public Member to appropriately qualified individuals, to encourage applications and ensure continued strong representation of the public within the JCNDE.
5. Reviewed and accepted the following candidate guides, which incorporate and operationalize the JCNDE's policies:
 - Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE)
 - Dental Hygiene Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DHLOSCE)
 - Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE)
 - National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE)
6. Scheduled a meeting to review the JCNDE's budget, including proposed Research and Development activities for 2025 and 2026. This meeting will occur on August 4, 2025.²
7. Reviewed JCNDE communication activities, which are vital in keeping communities of interest informed concerning the examinations of the JCNDE and the work that is currently underway. The JCNDE strives for transparency in its operations where possible, providing free online access to examination technical reports and examination preparation tools.
8. Approved updates to the JCNDE's policies and procedures, as codified in the *Rules of the JCNDE* and the *Operational and Policy Manual of the JCNDE*, to facilitate the work of the JCNDE and maintain compliance with the *Governance and Organizational Manual of the ADA*.
9. Addressed administrative matters, including the approval of prior meeting minutes and the recording of candidate appeal ballots in the permanent record of the JCNDE.
10. Dr. Reza Iranmanesh will serve as JCNDE Chair for the 2025-2026 term. The JCNDE also elected Dr. Alberto Gasparoni to serve as Vice-chair during the 2025-2026 term. Their service in these roles will begin on October 28, 2025.

² See Addendum at end of report.

The annual JCNDE State Dental Board Forum will take place on Monday, August 18, 2025. The next public policy-making meeting of the JCNDE will be the Psychometric Research & Examination Content Development Meeting on April 24, 2026.

Addendum

Governance, Policies, & Administration Follow-Up Meeting: Budget Proposal and Approval of Research Activities August 4, 2025

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) met on Monday, August 4, 2025, to review a proposed budget and upcoming research activities for 2025 and 2026. After discussion, the JCNDE took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved Research and Development activities for 2025 and 2026. These activities help support activities outlined in the JCNDE's dental and dental hygiene strategic roadmaps, which were approved at the JCNDE's Psychometric Research & Examination Content Development (PRECD) meeting held in April 2025.
2. Reviewed and accepted the JCNDEs 2025 and 2026 Budget Proposal, which included the following:
 - Recommended candidate fees for 2026. The JCNDE will communicate final examination fees in the JCNDE's 2026 Candidate Guides, which will be made available on the JCNDE website in December 2025.
 - DHLOSCE candidate incentives, to facilitate utilization of the DHLOSCE for licensure purposes and collect data in support of the validity of this examination.
3. Reviewed and approved additional guidance for test constructors on the inclusion of response options for DHLOSCE questions, in accordance with psychometric research.
4. Discussed recent actions by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) granting accreditation status to programs outside of the US. The JCNDE noted these actions, and approved a resolution providing latitude for the JCNDE to consider administering its National Board Examinations to qualified candidates from these programs, at secure test center locations. The JCNDE's discussion centered around test centers in close proximity to these programs. No specific timeframes were identified for preliminary investigations to occur, recognizing the imminent release of the Dental Hygiene Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DHLOSCE), which requires significant attention and focus by the JCNDE.

Dr. Peter Loomer (ADEA), Chair
Dr. M. Reza Iranmanesh (ADA), Vice-chair
Dr. Alberto Gasparoni (ADEA)

Dr. Sara Gordon (ADEA)
Ms. Tami Grzesikowski (ADHA)
Dr. A.R. Hendricksen (AADB)
Ms. Betty Kabel (ADHA)
Dr. Imani E. Lewis (AADB)
Dr. Julie W. McKee (AADB)
Dr. Julia K. Mikell (AADB)
Dr. Jeetendra Patel (AADB)
Dr. Tareina Rogers (ASDA)
Dr. Frank E. Schiano (ADA)
Dr. James R. Sherrard (Public Member)
Dr. Ronald Waryjas (ADA)

Dr. Manish Chopra, ADA Board Liaison
Dr. Michelle Chiang, ASDA Student
Observer