

**Unofficial Report of Major Actions  
Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations  
June 10, 2016**

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) met at the American Dental Association (ADA) headquarters on Friday, June 10, 2016 and took the following actions:

1. Approved the 2016 and 2017 budget proposal, including 2017 candidate fees. The total examination fees charged in 2017 to candidates will be \$395 for the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Part I, \$440 for the NBDE Part II, and \$415 for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE). Candidates from non-accredited institutions will be assessed a \$135 processing fee at the time of application. Score report request fees will be \$36. These fees are subject to approval by the American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates.
2. Reviewed Joint Commission actions taken since its prior annual meeting in April 2015, including the following:
  - Approved the implementation plan for the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE), a written examination that will supplant NBDE Parts I and II in the future. The INBDE is anticipated to be available in August 2020, with full replacement of the NBDE expected to occur by August 2022.
  - Directed Department of Testing Services (DTS) staff to communicate the INBDE implementation plan to stakeholders and communities of interest; this includes a targeted mailing to the leadership of US dental boards.
  - Directed its Committee on Administration to review Joint Commission and ADA *Bylaws* regarding the duties of the Joint Commission, to allow more flexibility for the Joint Commission to develop licensure exams in other areas of allied dentistry.
  - Directed DTS staff to issue an announcement indicating the Joint Commission's interest in building an NBDTE for licensure purposes.
3. Approved actions and reviewed progress in support of the INBDE and its implementation, including the following:
  - Directed DTS staff to provide additional targeted INBDE communications to the dental education and student communities by sending the INBDE Implementation Plan directly to academic deans, dental deans, the American Dental Education Association (CEO and president), and the American Student Dental Association (executive director and president), on an annual basis.
  - Reaffirmed field testing protocols for the *INBDE Short Form* and *INBDE Standard Form*, which will be administered in the fall of 2016 and 2017, respectively.
  - Approved INBDE retesting policies during the NBDE-INBDE transition period. These policies are posted online ([www.ada.org/JCNDE/INBDE](http://www.ada.org/JCNDE/INBDE)).
  - Reviewed recommendations to stakeholders and communities of interest regarding preparation for the INBDE, such as the following:
    - Review and monitor INBDE information on the Joint Commission's website ([www.ada.org/JCNDE/INBDE](http://www.ada.org/JCNDE/INBDE)), including validity evidence and the results of field testing.
    - Attend INBDE presentations at the National Dental Examiners' Advisory Forum (NDEAF) and/or ADEA annually.

- State boards should prepare to receive INBDE results, making sure to review practice acts, rules, policies, and regulations to determine if changes will be required to accept the INBDE on day one of availability.
  - Dental education programs should prepare their school and students for the INBDE through any necessary revisions to curricula and academic policy.
  - Licensure candidates should determine which examination track to pursue (NBDE or INBDE) during the transition period, preparing accordingly in consultation with the following: the most recent INBDE implementation plan, dental school requirements, dental boards of states in which licensure is sought, and current Joint Commission policies.
4. Reaffirmed the Joint Commission's commitment to the quality and validity of its current examination programs (NBDE Parts I and II, NBDHE). This includes the following:
- Approved instituting an Image Review Test Construction Committee charged with the responsibility for 1) maintaining image implementation guidelines and acceptability standards in accordance with industry best practices, 2) evaluating and accepting high-quality images, and 3) categorizing and adjusting images as appropriate, to help ensure that images appearing on National Board Examination are of sufficient quality that entry-level candidates who possess the necessary knowledge and skills would be able to correctly answer questions involving these images.
  - Adopted the recommendations of a standard setting committee convened for the NBDHE. 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 new standard will be scheduled for implementation no sooner than January 2017.
  - Adopted 30 revised clinical content areas for the NBDHE, to represent the clinical content areas required for the safe, entry-level practice of dental hygiene. These clinical content areas had previously been subject to review by both the dental and dental hygiene communities.
  - Endorsed a practice analysis approach for the NBDHE, and directed DTS staff to implement this approach. The aforementioned dental hygiene clinical content areas will be incorporated into a practice analysis survey that will be distributed to entry-level dental hygienists in 2016. Results for this survey will be used to help establish the content domain for the NBDHE.
  - Adopted a resolution to form an ad hoc committee to review the Joint Commission's practice analysis methodology and report back to the Committee on Research and Development in 2017. The Joint Commission also endorsed staff efforts to further improve the methodology in the interim period.
  - Approved reappointment of current NBDE and NBDHE test construction committee (TCC) members, and selected new NBDE and NBDHE TCC members for committees meeting in 2017.
  - Approved changes to dental hygiene TCC member qualifications in the areas of periodontics, clinical dental hygiene, and oral medicine/oral diagnosis/oral pathology.
  - Adopted a resolution in response to a letter from the ADA's Council on Dental Practice. Consistent with sentiments expressed in the letter, the resolution

encourages all National Board Examination TCCs to write questions where applicable within their individual test specifications that relate to issues of provider health and wellness, addiction, and opioid prescribing.

- 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.
  - Approved the 2015 Technical Reports for the NBDE and NBDHE.
  - Recommended that the following positions be added to DTS in 2017, to support testing programs and corresponding projects: Associate Psychometrician, Assessment Specialist-Digital Imaging, DTS Editor, and Project Coordinator.
  - Approved a list of 2016 and 2017 research and development projects and expenditures.
5. Adopted a resolution to form an ad hoc committee on *Bylaws* duties to consider the scope of the Joint Commission and report its progress to the Joint Commission in 2017.
6. Recommended a proposed revision to the *ADA Standing Rules for Councils and Commissions*, contingent upon approval by the ADA's Board of Trustees. The proposed revision modifies the procedure for tabulating Joint Commission mail ballots involving candidate appeals, such that votes not received shall be considered abstentions. Current procedures require non-votes to be considered affirmative votes (i.e., in favor of granting the appeal).
7. Adopted revisions to the *Joint Commission's Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Examination Regulations*. Revisions to *Examination Regulations* are effective immediately; revisions to *Joint Commission Bylaws* and *Standing Rules* are contingent upon approval by the ADA's House of Delegates. Noteworthy revisions are as follows:
- *JCNDE Examination Regulations*: Candidates will no longer be required to wait 12-months to retest, after their third failed attempt on a National Board Examination.
  - *JCNDE Examination Regulations*: National Board Examination results reporting will undergo minor modifications to facilitate electronic reporting through the DTS Score Reporting Hub in late 2016. This includes elimination of state board reporting of subject-based scale scores for examination attempts made under conjunctive scoring models, and removal of report language concerning the implications of cut score achievement.
  - *JCNDE Standing Rules*: New Commissioners will be subject to a simultaneous service policy, to help avoid potential conflicts of interest.
  - *JCNDE Bylaws*: A change was made to Joint Commission officer elections. The Vice Chair of the Joint Commission will now become Chair of the Joint Commission, at the end of his or her term as Vice Chair.

8. Reviewed a draft 2017 self-assessment report, and approved formation of an ad hoc committee to review the self-assessment process and communicate its findings to the Joint Commission in 2017.
9. Elected Dr. Frank Licari as Chair and Dr. Lisa Heinrich-Null as Vice Chair of the Joint Commission. Their terms will begin in October of 2016.
10. Approved June 14, 2017 as the scheduled meeting date for 2017.

Dr. Luis J. Fujimoto (AADB), Chair  
Dr. Marc E. Levitan (ADEA), Vice Chair  
Dr. Dale R. Chamberlain (AADB)  
Dr. Melissa G. Efurd (ADHA)  
Dr. Cheryl Haley (ADA)  
Dr. Lisa Heinrich-Null (ADA)  
Dr. Frank W. Licari (ADEA)  
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Dr. William F. Robinson (AADB)  
Dr. Gregory Shank (ASDA)  
Ms. Issie L. Shelton Jenkins (Public)  
Dr. Leonard Weiss (AADB)

Dr. Alvin Stevens (ADA Board Liaison)