

**Unofficial Report of Major Actions  
Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations  
June 20, 2018**

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) met at the American Dental Association (ADA) headquarters on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 and took the following actions:

1. Approved the 2018 and 2019 budget proposal, proposed research and development activities for 2018 and 2019, and 2019 proposed candidate fees. The total examination fees charged in 2019 to candidates will be \$425 for the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Part I, \$475 for the NBDE Part II, and \$440 for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE). Candidates from non-accredited institutions will be assessed an additional \$210 processing fee at the time of application. Score report request fees will be \$40.
2. Approved actions and reviewed progress in support of the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) and its implementation, including the following:
  - Approved formal announcement of implementation of the INBDE. The INBDE will be launched on August 1, 2020. The NBDE Parts I and II will be discontinued on July 31, 2020 and July 31, 2022, respectively. A formal communication concerning implementation will be distributed to stakeholders and communities of interest in July 2018.
  - Approved a technical report documenting findings from the 2017-2018 INBDE Field Test. These findings provide supporting evidence for use of the INBDE in dental licensure decisions.
  - Approved the annual report of the Committee for an Integrated Examination (CIE).
  - Approved the recommended time allotment and delivery structure for the INBDE. The INBDE will include 500 items and be administered over one and a half days.
  - Approved minor adjustments to the Domain of Dentistry, as follows: two clinical content areas from the Practice and Profession clinical component section were moved to the Diagnosis and Treatment Planning clinical component section. This change also resulted in corresponding minor changes to the INBDE test specifications.
  - Directed Department of Testing Services (DTS) staff to provide candidates who fail the INBDE with information concerning their overall performance, and their performance in the three clinical component sections and ten foundation knowledge areas of the Domain of Dentistry.
  - Recognizes Dr. Mark Christensen, and all past and current members of the Committee for an Integrated Examination, for their hard work, dedication, and significant contributions in developing the INBDE. The CIE has successfully completed its charge. Validation is an ongoing process for all of the JCNDE's examination programs; future work on the INBDE will be undertaken by JCNDE standing committees.
3. Reaffirmed the Joint Commission's commitment to the quality and validity of its current examination programs (NBDE Parts I and II and the NBDHE). This includes the following approvals:
  - Modifications to the Five Years/Five Attempts eligibility rule. Under the original policy, candidates who had exhausted the five years or five attempts were not

permitted to test again. Effective June 20, 2018, subsequent to the fifth year or fifth attempt, failing candidates may test once every 12 months after their most recent attempt. This policy update is applicable to all failing candidates who have tested since 2012.

- Candidates who fail the NBDE Part II will receive an updated results report that indicates how the candidate performed overall and in each discipline covered by the examination, as compared to the national average. The new report addresses certain challenges present with the prior report.
  - Formation of Test Constructor Pools for the National Board Examinations. The term “Test Construction Committee” will also be replaced with the term “Test Construction Team.”<sup>1</sup> Test Constructors will be assigned to Test Construction Teams based on the needs of each National Board Examination program.
  - Individuals who currently serve (or are scheduled to serve) as Test Constructors were also approved to serve within their corresponding pool. Individuals currently serving as NBDE Part I Test Constructors were approved to serve as Test Constructors for the INBDE.
  - Reappointment of current NBDE and NBDHE test constructors, and selection of new primary and alternate NBDE and NBDHE test constructors for test construction teams meeting in 2019.
  - Acceptance of the following reports used to monitor and report on the quality and performance of National Board Examinations:
    - National Board Dental Examinations Technical Report
    - National Board Dental Hygiene Examination Technical Report
    - Trends in Candidate Performance Report
    - Quality of Recent Examinations Report
  - Acceptance of the National Board Examination Guides.
4. Pursued efforts in support of the strategic direction of the Joint Commission. This includes the following:
- Approval of a draft strategic plan to serve as a starting point for JCNDE deliberations. The draft plan was the product of a three-day meeting held in Chicago in May 2018.
  - Formation of an ad hoc Governance Committee charged with the task of considering strategic planning findings concerning the JCNDE’s scope, mission, and governance, and recommending specific changes in accordance with the recommendations emerging from the JCNDE strategic planning process.
  - Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Stakeholder Engagement, charged with the task of developing a strategic communications plan to guide the JCNDE’s communications and engagement with key stakeholder groups in accordance with recommendations emerging from the JCNDE strategic planning process.
  - Recommended revisions to the JCNDE Standing Rules, which modify Test Constructor term limits, thereby affording the Department of Testing Services the flexibility needed to help ensure Test Construction Teams contain individuals with the expertise necessary to develop accurate content and fulfill examination requirements. Implementation of these recommended revisions is contingent upon approval by the ADA House of Delegates.

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<sup>1</sup> This change in terminology also appears in recommended changes to the JCNDE Bylaws.

- Revisions to JCNDE Examination Regulations, including updates to eligibility requirements, to retest policies described elsewhere in this report, extending the NBDE Part I and NBDHE to two days if taken with testing accommodations, clarifying the regulation to assist the Joint Commission in situations where an examination might be taken for a reason inconsistent with the test purpose, and clarifying how results are sent to state boards.
5. Elected Douglas C. Wilson, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. as the Public Member of the JCNDE for the 2018-2022 term.
  6. Dr. William F. Robinson will serve as JCNDE Chair for the 2018-2019 term. The JCNDE also elected Dr. Cataldo Leone to serve as Vice Chair during the aforementioned term. Their service in these roles will begin in October of 2018.
  7. Successfully convened the National Dental Examiners' Advisory Forum (NDEAF) directly before the meeting of the JCNDE, including both in-person and remote participants from the dental and dental hygiene communities, with remote participation occurring via webinar.
  8. The next annual meetings of the JCNDE will be held on June 26, 2019 and June 23, 2020. The next annual NDEAF meetings will occur on these same two days, and will directly precede the meeting of the JCNDE.

Dr. Lisa Heinrich-Null (ADA), Chair  
Dr. William F. Robinson (AADB), Vice Chair  
Dr. Dale R. Chamberlain (AADB)  
Dr. Melissa G. Efurd (ADHA)  
Dr. Cheryl D. Haley (ADA)  
Dr. Aaron Henderson (ASDA)  
Dr. Roy Irons (AADB)  
Dr. Cataldo Leone (ADEA)  
Dr. Frank Maggio (AADB)  
Dr. Nader A. Nadershahi (ADEA)  
Dr. K. "Ragu" Ragunathan (ADA)  
Dr. Wesley D. Thomas (AADB)  
Dr. Leonard P. Weiss (AADB)  
Dr. Joseph Zambon (ADEA)

Dr. Chad P. Gehani, ADA Board Liaison  
Mr. Jeffrey Kerst, ASDA Student Observer