

To: US Dental Boards, the Dental Education Community, Dental Licensure Candidates

From: Dr. Cataldo Leone, Chair of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE)

Date: April 2, 2020

Subject: Official Release of the JCNDE's Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE)

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) has a long and distinguished track record of providing valid and reliable high-stakes examinations for licensure purposes, to protect the public health. We continue to innovate in our efforts to serve the needs of those who use our examinations to inform their decisions. This innovation and drive for excellence is more important than ever given these uncertain times, the challenges that face all of us, and the implications of JCNDE examinations for stakeholders, communities of interest, and the public.

In light of the preceding, **I am pleased to announce that on March 31, 2020 the JCNDE approved a resolution to make its newest examination—the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE)—available for use in 2020 by dental boards in the US.** The DLOSCE is a content-valid examination built specifically for clinical licensure purposes that assesses candidates' clinical judgment and skills using sophisticated 3-D models, without the need to involve patients. **The JCNDE is targeting Monday, June 15, 2020 as the official date of release, pending test center availability.**

The DLOSCE is comprehensive in its assessment of clinical judgment, including content in the following areas: Restorative Dentistry; Prosthodontics; Oral Pathology, Pain Management and TMD; Periodontics; Oral Surgery; Endodontics; Orthodontics; Medical Emergencies; and Prescriptions. Diagnosis, Treatment Planning, and Occlusion are assessed across the aforementioned topic areas. DLOSCE content has been developed by teams of highly qualified subject matter experts, working together to build examination questions that are capable of accurately and reliably identifying those who possess the clinical skills necessary to safely practice dentistry. Use of the DLOSCE is supported by content validity arguments, the same type of validity evidence that is used to support the JCNDE's other examination programs—the National Board Dental Examinations Parts I and II, the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, and the Integrated National Board Dental Examination. The DLOSCE complements these other examination programs, advancing the work of the JCNDE as it pursues its vision to serve as the nation's leading resource for supporting standards of oral healthcare professionals through valid, reliable and fair assessments for licensure and certification.

The JCNDE understands that stakeholders and communities of interest will have many questions concerning the DLOSCE. With this in mind, the JCNDE will be conducting webinars in coming weeks, to share additional information in preparation for the release of this important new examination program. Each webinar will focus on a particular stakeholder group or community of interest (dental boards, dental educators, and students), answering questions and providing each group with information that is directly relevant to their specific needs. In the

meantime, updates on the DLOSCE will continue to be shared through the JCNDE's DLOSCE webpage (ada.org/dlosce).

In closing, the JCNDE would like to take this opportunity to thank dental boards for their continued reliance on the examinations of the JCNDE. The JCNDE is confident that the DLOSCE is a strong examination that is well-suited for use in addressing the clinical examination licensure requirements of each board, and is particularly responsive to their pressing needs in these challenging times. The JCNDE looks forward to working closely with all boards interested in accepting the DLOSCE for licensure purposes in 2020 and beyond.

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