

**Unofficial Report of Major Actions  
Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations  
June 23, 2021**

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) met via teleconference on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 and took the following actions:

1. Approved the 2021 and 2022 budget proposal, proposed research and development activities for 2021 and 2022, and 2022 proposed candidate examination fees. The JCNDE recommended 2022 examination fees as follows:
  - National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Part II: \$580
  - Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE): \$810
  - Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE): \$950
  - National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE): \$550
  - Processing fee for candidates from non-accredited institutions: \$300
  - Score report request fee (additional reports): \$50
2. Approved actions concerning the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) as follows:
  - Reappointed current DLOSCE test constructors to serve in the 2022 DLOSCE Test Constructor Pool, and appointed new test constructors to serve in this pool.
  - Accepted the DLOSCE score report for failing candidates, to assist failing candidates in their remediation efforts.
  - Accepted the annual DLOSCE performance report for dental education programs, to assist programs in understanding the clinical judgment and skills of their students.
  - Directed staff to develop a strategic plan to promote adoption of the DLOSCE by state dental boards through utilization of ambassadors and local contacts, to increase adoption of this important examination program.
  - Adopted changes simplifying presentation of certain areas of the test specifications for the DLOSCE.
3. Approved actions and reviewed progress in support of the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) and its implementation, including the following:
  - Reappointed current INBDE test constructors to serve in the 2022 INBDE Test Constructor Pool.
  - Appointed new INBDE test constructors to serve in the 2022 INBDE Test Constructor Pool.
  - At the request of the University of Iceland School of Dentistry, approved a resolution permitting eligible candidates to attempt the INBDE in Iceland at approved Prometric test centers beginning in 2022, provided that the administrations can occur securely and at reasonable cost to the JCNDE.
4. Reaffirmed the Joint Commission's commitment to the quality and validity of the NBDHE Program. This includes the following approvals:
  - Reappointed current NBDHE test constructors, and selected new NBDHE test constructors to serve in the 2022 NBDHE Test Constructor Pool.

- Increased communication efforts with the dental hygiene community:
  - providing candidates, program directors, and communities of interest with information about the NBDHE Practice test.

updating program directors concerning the return of the long form NBDHE, as well as general changes to the NBDHE Program (e.g., changes to the candidate guide, periodontal classification changes, and timelines associated with changes).

5. Pursued efforts in support of the strategic direction of the Joint Commission. This includes the following:

- Approved development of the Dental Hygiene Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DHLOSCE), based on a comprehensive business plan.
  - Directed staff to utilize subject matter experts from JCNDE test constructor pools to begin developing content for the DHLOSCE, as well as to secure additional qualified test constructors for the DHLOSCE — as needed and with the approval of the JCNDE Chair — in order to meet the needs of the DHLOSCE Program.
  - Directed staff to communicate information concerning the DHLOSCE with communities of interest.
- Directed staff to investigate the creation of a Fairness and Sensitivity Test Construction Team, to evaluate examination content through the lens of the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, to help ensure that National Board Examination questions continue to fairly and accurately measure candidate knowledge, skills, and abilities. This effort supplements existing Joint Commission fairness and sensitivity efforts and practices, to further support the fairness of National Board Examinations.
- Updated the JCNDE's *Mission and Vision*, to reflect approved changes to the JCNDE's *Bylaws* duties that permit the JCNDE to provide and conduct examinations for all purposes.
- Amended the *Rules of the JCNDE* and the *Operational and Policy Manual of the JCNDE* as follows:
  - The JCNDE now has its own Disclosure Policy, requiring JCNDE meeting participants to disclose conflicts of interest pertaining to the JCNDE. The *JCNDE Disclosure Policy* replaces the *ADA Disclosure Policy* that had been used previously.
  - The JCNDE's Committee on Administration will now include one Commissioner who was appointed to the JCNDE by the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA).
  - The mandatory wait period between retest attempts will be changed from 90 days to 60 days, with the 60-day period not subject to appeal. A maximum of four administrations are permitted within any 12-month period. The latter statement also now applies to the INBDE (previously, the INBDE Program permitted only three attempts in one year). This change goes into effect on January 1, 2022.
  - The JCNDE is modifying its requirement that examinations requiring two days of administration time be administered on two *consecutive* days. The JCNDE will now require that these examinations be fully completed within either seven (NBDE Part II, INBDE, NBDHE) or fourteen (DLOSCE) days of the first day of administration.
  - Rule violations occurring in one National Board Examination program may result in penalties that impact a candidate's ability to test in another National Board Examination program.
- Concerning images appearing on National Board Examinations, the JCNDE directed staff to modify the existing image submission policy so that it reads as follows: Individuals who submit images may continue their use of these

- images in educational materials, including classroom lectures.
- Directed staff to investigate the possibility of shortening the length of Joint Commission examinations and present a report of that investigation to the Committee on Research and Development during its 2022 annual meeting. This was done in light of the JCNDE's positive experience with the short-form-NBDHE, and in accordance with recommendations the JCNDE has received over the years from its technical advisory panel.
  - Directed staff to review National Board Examination eligibility requirements in light of candidate administration trends and their implications, providing an update in 2024.
  - Identified the following areas where communication is needed, and directed staff to proceed as indicated to help address these needs:
    - Improve communication with National Board Examination candidates, to supplement JCNDE communications and help ensure candidates are appropriately informed concerning JCNDE practices and policies.
    - Improve communication with academic deans and dental hygiene program directors, using updated surveys to better understand perceptions of JCNDE communications. The surveys will be distributed in the fall of 2021.
    - Improve communication with state boards of dentistry concerning JCNDE practices, and involve dental hygienists in lobbying.
6. Dr. R. Michael Sanders will serve as JCNDE Chair for the 2021-2022 term. The JCNDE also elected Dr. John D. Da Silva to serve as Vice Chair during the aforementioned term. Their service in these roles will begin in October 2021.
7. Successfully convened the State Dental Board Forum (SDBF) on June 21, 2021, with remote participation occurring via webinar.
8. The next annual meetings of the JCNDE will be held on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 and Wednesday, June 28, 2023. The annual SDBF meetings will occur on Monday, June 27, 2022 and Monday, June 26, 2023.

Dr. Kanthasamy K. Ragunathan (ADA), Chair  
Dr. R. Michael Sanders (AADB), Vice Chair  
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Dr. Wesley Delaine Thomas (AADB)  
Dr. Douglas C. Wilson (Public Member)  
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Dr. Rudolph T. Liddell, ADA Board Liaison  
Ms. Alia Osseiran, ASDA Student Observer