

Minutes (final draft)

Date: 6-16-2015

Subject: Meeting of the sub-committee of the Board of Examiners in Dentistry considering changes in the Rules and Regulations regarding licensure requirements for Dentists and Hygienists

Location: 115 Budlong Road, Cranston

Attending: Donald Williams, Maryellen Simas, Christie Durant, Stephen Puerini

Primary Issue: Ambiguous and potentially contradictory language in Section 5.1 of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Dentists and Hygienists.

Glossary:

ADEX: American Board of Dental Examiners

CIF format: Curriculum Integrated Format

CDCA: Commission on Dental Competency Assessment

NERB: Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners

CRDTS: Central Regional Dental Testing Service

SRTA: Southern Regional Testing Agency

CITA: Council of Interstate Testing Agencies

WREB: Western Regional Examining Board

Discussion:

1. For the benefit of the two non-dental participants, there was a brief overview of the multi-regional examination process
2. Keep 5.1.1 a as is.
3. Suggested language change in 5.1.1 b & c: the word “successfully” appears to be superfluous. One would not successfully or unsuccessfully pass or fail, they simply pass or fail.
4. In 5.1.1 c, the phrase, “within 5 years ***from*** the date of application could suggest that the exam could be taken ***after*** the date of licensure. Change to “...within the 5 (five) years prior to the date of application...”
5. Wherever it appears, change the name of the ***“Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners”*** to ***“Commission on Dental Competency Assessment”***. For clarity a parenthetic could be added to reference the former N.E.R.B.

6. Since the writing of these rules and regulations, there have been many changes made in the examination process in the various regions. At present the ADEX exam is the accepted standard in 46 states but only administered through 2 of the 5 testing agencies (NERB {now CDCA}, and SRTA). The other agencies (9CRDTS, WREB and CITA) have their own examination and ***do not*** administer the ADEX exam although the state boards within their individual jurisdictions, almost universally, accept the ADEX exam as a qualification for licensure. The question was raised, “Are the exams used by those other three testing agencies (WREB, CITA AND CRDTS), still acceptable by our Board as they were when the current R&R’s were written? How was the content changed? Are they still “similar” to the ADEX exam.
7. As a Board, we recently voted to include the Periodontal section of the ADEX exam as a required element for licensure. ***Some states do not*** and candidates have the choice of “opting out” of that section of the exam. With relation to #5 above, we need to appreciate the possibility that the non-ADEX agencies’ exams may not include a Periodontal requirement and, therefore, would not prove acceptable when applying for a RI license. Accepting those agencies’ exams as “similar” to the NERB (who uses the ADEX exam) is ambiguous at least, and, at worst, contradictory. When referencing the ***NERB*** exam (now CCA), we may want to consider making direct reference to the ADEX exam instead (***including*** the periodontal portion). Technically, there is no NERB exam, it is the ADEX exam (CIF or traditional formats) *administered* by NERB. This may obviate the need to reference the other agencies by name.
8. The same applies to the patient clinical portion of the exam. Currently, all five of the testing agencies still have a ***patient clinical*** exam. Accredited Canadian schools (as well as those in Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland) administer the Canadian exam, but this exam ***does not*** have a patient clinical portion. Are we prepared to state in the Rules that a candidate ***must*** have passed an exam ***with*** a patient clinical exercise to be eligible for licensure? We have used the word “similar” in the rules to describe an exam, “for which the applicant is seeking waiver” (5.1.1 c-1). What does similar mean in this context?
9. Suggested language change for 5.1.1 d: “hold an active (current?) license in good standing to practice in another state for a period of at least 5 years immediately prior to submitting an application for licensure”

- in RI. Said state shall have required successful completion of a clinical examination (similar to the ADEX exam), not part of the applicant's training program, to be considered for licensure." The word "similar" still needs to be clarified if it is to be used.
10. At present no specific rule entertains a residency program as an acceptable alternative to an exam. Currently, New York **does** accept an approved residency in lieu of an examination. The approval process and the vigilance with which these programs are monitored is not known. Hypothetical situation: Candidate received a license in New York after completing a residency program **only**, has practiced for 5 years and applied in RI. ??? Do we consider a residency as an alternative to the examination requirement? Do we consider 5 years of active, licensed practice in one of the 50 states as an alternative to the examination requirement (changing the language in #8 above). This would be, essentially, licensure by endorsement (reciprocity).
 11. The language in the requirements section for licensure of dental hygienists (10.1) has many of the same issues as the language is nearly identical. However, there is an additional concern. ADEX has a hygiene specific exam. Currently CITA is not using it. It is using the ADEX periodontal section of the **dental** exam instead, and, according to the psychometricians at ADEX, this not a valid and reliable exam for hygienists. SRTA is using the ADEX Dental Hygiene exam but **without** the CSCE (simulated clinical), considered by most to be an important component.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen J. Puerini, DMD