



National Commission News

Message from the Chair



Dr. Gayle Glenn

The dedication of our current Commissioners has made chairing the National Commission a pleasure. I would like to thank all those serving on the Commission and our staff for their commitment to the Commission.

Special points of interest:

- 2025-2030 National Commission Strategic Plan
- National Commission Establishes Thresholds for Subspecialty Designation
- Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards
- Future Meeting Dates

The National Commission held its 7th Annual Meeting on April 15, 2024 at ADA Headquarters in Chicago.

The role of the National Commission is to review compliance with the *Requirements for Recognition* for the recognized dental specialty sponsoring organizations and their respective certifying boards. No new applications for recognition were considered.

Other business included adoption of the *2024 Annual Report of the Recognized Certifying Boards* and development of initial strategies for the newly adopted 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

Strategic initiatives include increasing the understanding of the National Commission's role within the dental profession, healthcare communities, and the public.

Plans are to create a section on the National Commission website devoted to the recognized dental specialty organizations and certifying boards which will include their mission statements and description of their roles within the dental profession. This can provide information to the public as it relates to dental specialists and board certification.

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National Commission Board of Commissioners Adopts 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

At its April 15, 2024 meeting, the Board of Commissioners adopted the National Commission 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, including revised Mission, Vision and Values Statements.

The 2025-2030 Strategic

Plan focuses on communication strategies with the National Commission's communities of interest, financial stability, patient and public education as it relates to the dental specialties and board certification and continued protection of the patients

and the public.

To review the updated National Commission Mission, Vision and Values statements, please visit the National Commission website at <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/>

National Commission Board of Commissioners Establishes Thresholds for Subspecialty Designation

In 2018, the National Commission was requested to consider the concept of subspecialty designation.

In 2022, the Board of Commissioners determined that as part of the investigative process, the National Commission needed to develop reasonable criteria, policy and processes. While the future of subspecialty designation remains unknown, it was determined the National Commission needed to be proactive and have processes and criteria in place to ensure that if subspecialty designation occurs in the profession, it would be done under the umbrella of the American Dental Association and the National Commission.

In 2023, the Board of Commissioners adopted proposed subspecialty designation criteria, policies, and processes as draft internal documents with the following thresholds related to subspecialty designation:

- The applicant must be a recognized dental specialty sponsoring organization.
- The subspecialty must have a Commission on Dental Accreditation accredited advanced education fellowship program.
- There must be a 2/3rds

affirmative vote of the Board of Commissioners to release the subspecialty documentation.

In 2024, the Board of Commissioners directed the ad hoc Committee on Subspecialty Recognition communicate with and consider the opinions of the ADA Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs and the Council on Dental Education and Licensure on the concept of subspecialty designation before determining the next steps.

Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards

The information used to complete the *Annual Report of the Certifying Boards* is compiled from the *Annual Survey of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards* that each certifying board is required to submit.

The purpose of the annual survey is to collect current information on the governance and operations of each of the recog-

nized certifying boards to ensure adherence to the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*.

The Annual Report contains information related to certification and examination data, certification pathways, examination procedures, validity and reliability, test construction and evaluation, certification/re-

certification examination content, re-examination policies and recertification/certification maintenance policies.

To review the 2024 report, visit the National Commission website: <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/recognized-certifying-boards>.

A close interdependent working relationship must be maintained between the sponsoring organization and the certifying board

Future Meeting Dates

The National Commission Board of Commissioners meets on an annual basis at the American Dental Association Headquarters in Chicago.

All meetings of the National Commission are conducted

in closed session.

Tentative future meeting dates are as follows:

- April 14, 2025
- April 20, 2026
- April 19, 2027
- April 17, 2028

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The mission of the National Commission is to protect the public and the profession through objective and transparent review of the recognized and prospective dental specialty sponsoring organizations and certifying boards based on the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*.

Please visit our website at <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/>

We hope this site will become an important resource for you. If there are improvements you would like to see or have suggestions you think would be helpful, please let us know at nationalcommission@ada.org