



# National Commission News

## Message from the National Commission Chair

### Special points of interest:

- 2025-2030 Communication Plan
- Changes to the Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice related to the Delivery of Oral Healthcare
- Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards
- Future Meeting Dates

The National Commission held its 8th Annual Meeting virtually on June 26, 2025.

The work of the National Commission has continued to focus on the development of clear and transparent policies and procedures with the objective to protect the public, nurture the art and science of dentistry and improve the quality of care.

To ensure the National Commission is forward thinking and monitoring evolving trends in the profession, the Commission adopted proposed revisions to the Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice that is conducted every 10 years to identify

changes in the delivery of oral healthcare.

It has been an honor to be the Chair of the National Commission, and I am proud to be part of a team of dedicated Commissioners. I want to express my gratitude to all the members of the Commission and our staff for their loyal commitment to the Commission.

A special thank you to our inaugural Director, Cathy Baumann. She will be retiring on August 15, 2025. Cathy has given unwavering service to the highest standard for the public, profession, ADA, and the National Commission. I



*Dr. Ben Warner*

want to welcome Nick Salerno as he embraces his new role as Director. It is a privilege to be associated with all of you!

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## National Commission Board of Commissioners Adopts 2025-2030 Communication Plan

At its June 2025 meeting, the Board of Commissioners adopted its 2025-2030 Communication Plan.

The Communication Plan focuses on various communication strategies with the National Commission's com-

munities of interest, patients and public to increase the understanding of the role of the National Commission within the profession, healthcare community and the public.

The Communication Plan

further focuses on stressing the importance of dental specialty practice and board certification and the establishment of relationships with professional organizations within the healthcare community outside of dentistry.

## Revisions to the Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice to Reflect Changes in the Delivery of Oral Healthcare

Every 10 years the National Commission conducts the Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice that gathers strategic information that is of value to the National Commission, the profession and the public.

The review focuses on the current environment; changes occurring within the specialty education and practice environments (e.g., disease trends, technology, program enrollments, and demographics); potential trends for the future; changes in the delivery of oral healthcare and how these may impact the public and the profession.

Because dentistry is a profession that is ever evolving, the National Commission determined that it would be beneficial to start tracking changes in the delivery of oral healthcare and how these changes may impact the profession, patients and the public.

The next cycle of the Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice will commence in 2029 and run through 2032.

To review the revised template for the Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice, visit the National Commission website: <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/educational-resources>

## Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards

The purpose of the annual survey is to collect current information on the governance and operations of each of the recognized certifying boards for dental specialists and to ensure each certifying board's adherence to the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*.

Data collected via the survey is compiled and published in the

National Commission Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards.

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 2025 report, visit the National Commission website: <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/recognized-certifying-boards>

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

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## Future Meeting Dates

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

All meetings of the National Commission are conducted

in closed session.

Future meeting dates for the National Commission are as follows:

- April 20, 2026
- April 19, 2027
- April 24, 2028

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## Mission Statement

The National Commission protects 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*.

## Vision Statement

The National Commission is held to be the standard for excellence, transparency and professionalism in the recognition and continued oversight of the recognized dental specialty sponsoring organizations and certifying boards.

## Core Values

- Objectivity
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Consistency
- Professionalism
- Collaboration
- Innovation

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](mailto:nationalcommission@ada.org)