



National Commission News

Message from the Chair

Special points of interest:

- American Board of Orofacial Pain Recognition
- Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards
- Call for Public Commissioner
- Comment on Requirements for Recognition
- Meeting dates

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I report on the National Commission activities from its March 2022 meeting. The meeting was productive and provided engaging and fruitful discussions.

Highlights of the meeting included recognition of the American Board of Orofacial Pain, discussions related to the development of an internal process for subspecialty recognition should the need arise, approval of the Annual Report of the recognized certifying boards, the adoption of a modified Annual Survey for those certifying boards in “good standing” and the adoption of stag-

gered Periodic Review cycle for the recognized specialty sponsoring organizations starting in 2029.

As one of the last inaugural Commissioners, I would like to extend a special thank you to the dedicated Commissioners who have served on the National Commission and Commission staff who have worked diligently and tirelessly to advance the mission of the National Commission.

The National Commission held its inaugural meeting in May 2018 and it has been exciting over the past five (5) years to witness the growth and evolution of the



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Commission as it defines its role as a Commission. It has been my pleasure to serve as the Chair of the National Commission and I look forward to a very productive second half of my term.

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American Board of Orofacial Pain Granted Recognition by National Commission

At its March 28-29, 2022 meeting, the National Commission Board of Commissioners considered the American Board of Orofacial Pain (ABOP) application to be considered as the recognized national certifying board for orofacial pain.

Based on review of the application, the Board of Commissioners determined that the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* had been met and adopted a resolution recognizing the ABOP as

the national certifying board for orofacial pain.

The ABOP is the 12th recognized specialty certifying board.

Dental specialties are recognized to protect the public, nurture the art and science of dentistry, and improve the quality of care.

Staggered Review Cycle for Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice

The Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice is conducted by the National Commission at ten (10) year intervals, with the last review conducted in 2020.

The purpose of the Periodic Review is to aid the National Commission in gathering 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 specialty education and practice environments and how these may impact the public and the profession.

The staggered review cycle will start in 2029 with three (3) organizations completing the review, three (3) in 2030, three (3) in 2031 and three (3) in 2032.

Upon completion of the initial staggered review cycle, all specialty sponsoring organizations will be a ten-year cycle.

To review the staggered cycle, visit the National Commission website: <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/en/educational-resources>

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 govern-

ance and operations of each of the recognized certifying boards to ensure each certifying board's 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 2022 report, visit the National Commission website: <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/en/specialty-certifying-boards>

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

National Commission Implements Modified Annual Survey for Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards

The Board of Commissioners implemented a modified version of the Annual Survey to be completed by those certifying boards in good standing with the status of "Recognition" in the intervening years when the full Annual Survey is not conducted. The full Annual Survey will be

conducted every three years.

Newly recognized certifying boards will be required to complete the full Annual Survey for a period of three years before being allowed to complete the modified Annual Survey.

The modified Annual Survey will collect in-depth information related to financial operations, validity and reliability evidence and numerical data related to Examination Statistical Data, Certification and Examination Summary Data, Certification Pathways and Applications.

National Commission Public Comment on Requirements for Recognition

At its March 28-29, 2022 meeting, the Board of Commissioners adopted revised *Requirements for Recognition* that were submitted to the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) as the National Commissions public comment.

The proposed revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the *Requirements for Recognition* and do not change the original intent of the *Requirements*. Through its proposed revisions, the National Commissions goal is to make the requirements more complete, understandable and thorough.

Since 2018, the National Commission has had the opportunity to utilize the *Requirements for Recognition* to recognize three (3) new dental specialties and three (3) new specialty certifying boards, along with conducting the ten-year periodic review of the specialties and reviewing the Annual Surveys of the certifying boards. Based on this experience, the National Commission identified revisions that address recurring *Requirements* interpretation issues with applicants, the current recognized

specialties and certifying boards and the National Commission itself.

To view the National Commissions comment, visit the National Commission website: <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/en/who-we-are/news-and-meetings>

Call for Nominations for Board of Commissioners Public Commissioner for Term Starting October 2022

The National Commission requests nominations from various communities of interest to submit the names of individuals to serve as the public member on the Board of Commissioners.

The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2022.

In order to serve, the public nominee must not be a:

- Dentist or member of

an allied dental discipline;

- Dental Educator
- Employee of the ADA or member of the ADA governing board;
- An employee of a state dental board;
- A patient of record of a past or current commissioner;

- Spouse, parent, child or sibling of any individual identified above.

Please contact Catherine Baumann, Director, National Commission at baumannca@ada.org for further information.

Public members play a vital role in bringing the public perspective to the deliberations of Board of Commissioners. This perspective allows the public member to function as the Board member with the least amount of inherent bias, nor are they subject to potential undue influence from an appointing organization.

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 24-25, 2023
- April 15-16, 2024
- April 14-15, 2025

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The mission of the National Commission is to serve the public and the profession by providing transparent and objective review of the recognized specialty organizations, prospective specialty organizations, their respective certifying boards and their adherence to the ADA Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists.

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

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