

National Commission Recognition Status Definitions and Actions

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National Commission on Recognition of
Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards

Introduction

- In 2020, the Board of Commissioners adopted the following recognition status definitions and actions:
 - Recognition
 - Recognition, *with reporting requirements*
 - Recognition, *with reporting requirements, intent to withdraw*
 - Withdraw
 - Initial Recognition
 - Denial
 - Discontinued
- The objective of having defined recognition statuses and actions is to provide notification to the communities of interest, including patients and the public, related to a recognized organizations and/or applicant organizations compliance with the *Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* and/or National Commission policies and procedures.



Recognition Status-Recognition

- Recognition is the top status a recognized organization can be granted.
- Recognition is a status granted to a sponsoring organization or certifying board indicating that both the sponsoring organization and certifying board have achieved recognition and continue to meet the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* and the National Commissions policies.
- A recognized specialty sponsoring organization and certifying board in the same discipline could have different recognition statuses.



Recognition Status-Recognition, *with Reporting Requirements*

- Recognition, *with reporting requirements* is a downgraded status that indicates a recognized specialty sponsoring organization or certifying board is not in compliance and specific deficiencies or weaknesses exist in one or more of the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* and/or the National Commissions policies and procedures.
- Evidence of compliance must be demonstrated within a timeframe not to exceed twelve (12) months.
- If the deficiencies are not corrected within the specified time period, the recognition status will change to intent to withdraw and will finally be withdrawn, unless the Commission extends the period for achieving compliance for good cause.
- If the Board of Commissioners determines that progress is being made, the Commission has the discretion to extend the period for achieving compliance for good cause and may grant a continued status of Recognition, *with reporting requirements*.
- Identification of new deficiencies during the reporting time period will not result in a modification of the specified deadline for compliance with prior deficiencies.
- The appropriate Review Committee will develop an action plan to assist the organization in achieving compliance.



Recognition Status-Recognition, *with Reporting Requirements, Intent to Withdraw*

- Recognition, *with reporting requirements, intent to withdraw* is a downgraded recognition status that indicates a recognized specialty sponsoring organization or certifying has not achieved compliance with either the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* or National Commission policies and procedures within a 12-month period.
- The recognition status of Recognition, *with reporting requirements, intent to withdraw* is a formal warning issued by the National Commission to notify a recognized sponsoring organization or certifying board and the communities of interest that the organization's recognition will be withdrawn within six (6) months if compliance with *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* or National Commission policies cannot be demonstrated by a specified date.
- The warning is usually for a six-month period, unless the Commission extends for good cause. If the Board of Commissioners determines that progress is being made, the Commission has the discretion to extend the period for achieving compliance for good cause and may grant a continued status of Recognition, *with reporting requirements, intent to withdraw*.
- The National Commission reserves the right to require a period of non-testing for certifying boards that have been issued the Intent to Withdraw warning.
- If the recognized organization is unable to achieve compliance, the Board of Commissioners will withdraw the organizations at its next regularly scheduled meeting.



Recognition Status and Action-Withdraw

- Withdrawal of recognition is an action taken by the Board of Commissioners when a recognized specialty sponsoring organization or certifying board has been unable to achieve compliance with the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* or National Commission policy over an 18-month timeframe.
- The final action to withdraw recognition is communicated to the organization and announced to the communities of interest.
- A statement summarizing the reasons for the National Commission's decision and comments, if any, that the affected organization has made regarding the decision, is available upon request from the National Commission office. Upon withdrawal of recognition by the National Commission, the organization is no longer recognized by the National Commission.
- Withdrawal of recognition is considered an adverse action and can be appealed.
- If the Board of Commissioners withdraws recognition from the specialty sponsoring organization, the discipline is no longer considered a specialty. The Board of Commissioners will also withdraw the recognition of the certifying board.



Recognition Status-Initial Recognition

- Initial recognition is the recognition status granted to a specialty sponsoring organization that has been granted recognition but does not have a recognized specialty certifying board.
- This recognition classification provides evidence that, at the time of granting specialty recognition, it is the expectation of the National Commission that an application for recognition will be submitted by a certifying board that has a close working relationship with the sponsoring organization within one (1) year of the sponsoring organizations' recognition.
- If the certifying board does not submit an application for recognition, the matter will be referred to the Board of Commissioners for adjudication.



Recognition Action-Denial

- Denial of recognition is an action taken by the Board of Commissioners when an applicant sponsoring organization or certifying board application for recognition has not fully met the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* .
- Reason(s) for the denial is provided to the applicant organization.
- Denial of recognition is considered an adverse action and can be appealed.



Recognition Status and Action-Discontinued

- Discontinued is a recognition status granted to a recognized specialty sponsoring organization or certifying board that has made the decision to voluntarily discontinue its participation in in the National Commission specialty recognition program.
- If a recognized certifying board discontinues its recognition, the recognized sponsoring organization has two (2) years to develop a fully functioning certifying board that can apply for specialty certifying board recognition.
- If a recognized specialty sponsoring organization discontinues it recognition, the Board of Commissioners will either discontinue or withdraw the recognized certifying boards recognition.
- If an organization that has discontinued its recognition wishes to become recognized by the National Commission at some point in the future, the organization with need to submit an application for recognition and pay the full application fee.



In Summary

- Every recognition and re-recognition decision made by the National Commission is based on compliance with the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* and National Commission policy.
- Recognition statuses are in a graduated sequence to allow recognized organizations that are not in compliance several opportunities to achieve compliance prior to having recognition withdrawn.
- Recognition statuses and actions were developed by the National Commission to provide notification to the communities of interest, including the public, related to a recognized organizations and/or applicant organizations compliance with the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* and/or National Commission policy.

