

National Commission Recognition Status Definitions

April 2026



National Commission on Recognition of
Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards

Introduction

- The Board of Commissioners has adopted the following recognition status definitions and actions:
 - Recognition
 - Recognition, *with reporting requirements*
 - Initial Recognition of a Recognized Specialty Sponsoring Organization
 - Initial Recognition of a Certifying Board When Recognition has been Withdrawn from a Previously Recognized Certifying Board
 - Discontinued
 - Recognition, *with reporting requirements, intent to withdraw*
 - Recognition, *with reporting requirements, period of restructuring*
 - Withdrawal
 - Denial
- 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 organization and/or an applicant organization 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 recognized sponsoring organization or recognized certifying board indicating that both the specialty 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/or established the National Commission policies and procedures.
- 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 indicating that 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 established 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within the specified time period, the recognition status will change to *intent to withdraw* and will finally be withdrawn, unless the Commission extends the period for achieving compliance for good cause.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-Initial Recognition of a Recognized Specialty Sponsoring Organization

- A recognition status granted to a newly recognized specialty sponsoring organization that does not yet have a certifying board that it has a close working relationship recognized by the National Commission.
- This recognition status provides evidence that, at the time of granting specialty sponsoring organization recognition, the National Commission expects that an application for certifying board recognition will be submitted by a certifying board that has a close working relationship with the sponsoring organization within twelve (12) months of the sponsoring organization's recognition.
- The certifying board **must** submit an application for recognition within a timeframe not to exceed twelve (12) months.
- If the certifying board does not submit an application for recognition within the twelve (12) month timeframe, the National Commission will withdraw recognition from the recognized sponsoring organization unless the Commission extends the period for good cause.
- Withdrawal of recognition is considered an adverse action and can be appealed.



Recognition Status-Initial Recognition of a Certifying Board When Recognition has been Withdrawn from a Previously Recognized Certifying Board

- A recognition status granted to a newly recognized certifying board that has been created due to the withdrawal of recognition of previously recognized certifying board that has not had adequate time to administer its first certification examination but has met all of the major components of the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*.
- The National Commission expects that the certifying board recognition will administer an examination within twelve (12) months of being granted initial recognition.
- The certifying board **must** submit evidence that an examination was administered within a timeframe not to exceed twelve (12) months.
- If the certifying board does not provide evidence that an examination was administered within the twelve (12) month timeframe, the National Commission will withdraw recognition from the certifying board unless the Commission extends the period for good cause.
- Withdrawal of recognition is considered an adverse action and can be appealed.



Recognition Status-Discontinued

- Discontinued is an action taken by the National Commission Board of Commissioners to affirm a recognized specialty sponsoring organization or recognized certifying boards reported voluntary discontinuance of participation in the National Commission's 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 its 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 will need to submit an application for recognition and pay the full application fee.



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 recognized certifying has not achieved compliance with either the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* and/or established 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-Recognition, *with Reporting Requirements, Intent to Withdraw, Period of Restructuring*

- Recognition, *with reporting requirements, intent to withdraw, period of restructuring* is a recognition status granted to a recognized specialty sponsoring organization or recognized certifying board that in its current operating structure will be unable to achieve compliance and will have its recognition withdrawn within six (6) months.
- The period of restructuring will only be in place for a period of twelve (12) months.
- If the recognized specialty sponsoring organization or recognized certifying board is unable to successfully complete the restructuring and come into compliance within the twelve (12) month period, the Board of Commissioners will withdraw recognition at its next scheduled meeting.
- While the recognized organization may not have fully achieved compliance with the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* and/or established National Commission policies and procedures, if the Board of Commissioners determines that progress is being made, the Commission has the discretion to extend the period of restructuring for good cause and may grant a continued status of Recognition, *with reporting requirements, intent to withdraw, period of restructuring*.
- The Board of Commissioners will only extend the period for restructuring for a period of six (6) months.
- A recognized specialty sponsoring organization and recognized certifying board must specifically request a period of restructuring. The Board of Commissioners will not grant this recognition status without a request from the recognized organization.



Recognition Status-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 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.



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.

