

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURE RELATED TO A RECOGNIZED SPECIALTY'S REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN NAME, DEFINITION AND/OR SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

When a recognized dental specialty wishes to change any or all of its name, definition and/or scope of practice, the recognized specialty sponsoring organization and associated recognized certifying board must submit a written request to the National Commission that will be considered by the Commission. A fee will be associated with the request and/or application. Prior to any final decision, the National Commission reserves the right to solicit a sixty (60) day public comment period on any requested changes for the benefit and protection of the public and the other recognized dental specialties.

### **Name Change**

The recognized specialty sponsoring organization and recognized certifying board must submit a written request to the National Commission explaining why the organization believes the name change is required and what impact the change may have on the currently recognized dental specialties and on the public. The National Commission will not consider name changes that are based on techniques.

If the National Commission believes the name change has an impact on the recognized specialties definition and/or scope of practice, the request will be denied and the sponsoring organization will be required to address the requirements cited below under Definition Change and/or Change in Scope of Practice.

### **Definition and Scope of Practice Change**

The recognized specialty sponsoring organization and certifying board must submit a written request to the National Commission explaining the rationale as to why a change in the specialties definition is required. The request must also provide documentation showing that the change remains in compliance with Requirement 2 and 3 of the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties* as outlined below:

#### **Requirement 2:**

A specialty must be a distinct and well-defined field which required unique knowledge and skills beyond those commonly possessed by dental school graduates as defined by the Commission on Dental Accreditation's Accreditation for Dental Education Programs.

- A. Provide the revised definition of the dental specialty including the reasoning as to why a change is required.
- B. Compare and contrast the pre-doctoral accreditation standards with the advanced knowledge required for the practice of the specialty, especially with regard to the level of knowledge required.
- C. Compare and contrast the advanced skills and levels of competency/proficiency expected of a graduate of the dental specialty program, especially with regard to level of skill required.

#### **Requirement 3:**

The scope of the specialty requires advanced knowledge and skills that: (a) in their entirety are separate and distinct from the knowledge and skills required to practice in any recognized dental specialty; and (b) cannot be accommodated through minimal modification of a recognized dental specialty.

#### **A. Advanced Knowledge**

1. Compare and contrast the accreditation standards of each of the recognized dental specialties with the advanced knowledge required for the specialty, especially with regard to the level of knowledge required.

2. Provide a listing of the unique and distinct body of knowledge for the specialty and contrast this listing with the unique and distinct bodies of knowledge of the each recognized specialty.

#### B. Advanced Skills

1. Compare and contrast the accreditation standards of each of the recognized dental specialties with the advanced skills required and levels of competency/proficiency expected of a graduate of the specialty program.
2. Identify the advanced skills (techniques and procedures) required for practice of the specialty that are not included within the scope of other recognized specialties.
3. Provide a listing of the unique and distinct skills for the specialty and contrast them to the unique and distinct field and bodies of knowledge of each recognized specialty. Please describe any overlaps in scope of practice the revised definition may create.
4. Provide written parameters of care for the recognized specialty based on changes to the definition.

If the Review Committee on Specialty Recognition determines that the requested definition change changes the scope of practice for the recognized specialty, both the recognized specialty sponsoring organization and the recognized certifying board will be directed to apply as a new specialty and be required to complete the appropriate application for recognition. The recognized specialty sponsoring organization and recognized certifying board will also be required to submit the non-refundable application fee. Recognition of the existing specialty and certifying board will be withdrawn if the National Commission determines that the new application based on a change in the scope of practice meets the *Requirements for Recognition*.

If the definition change request is submitted while the National Commission is soliciting public comment for a recognition application, the National Commission will not take any action on the organizations request, until the Board of Commissioners has made a determination to grant or deny recognition on the application.

#### C. Change in Scope of Practice

Any requests that change a recognized specialties scope of practice will require completion and submission of the National Commission's Application for Specialty Recognition. The recognition process for approval of a change in scope of practice for a recognized specialty sponsoring organization will be the same process as outlined in the National Commission's Application Process for Recognition of a Dental Specialty (See Policy on Application Process for Recognition of a Dental Specialty). The specialty sponsoring organization should note that if it submits an application for recognition that is approved by the National Commission, the recognized specialty sponsoring organization and the recognized certifying board will be informed that the National Commission will no longer recognize the prior specialty in favor of the amended specialty including the added scope of practice.

If the Board of Commissioners approves a specialty sponsoring organizations application for recognition, the recognized certifying board will be required to complete and submit the National Commission's Application for Specialty Certifying Board Recognition including the non-refundable application fee. The recognition process will be the same process as outlined in the National Commission's Application Process for Recognition of a Dental Specialty Certifying Board (See Policy on Application Process for Recognition of a Dental Specialty Board).

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