

May 4, 2016

Mr. Larry Marx
Board Administrator/Executive Director
Utah Board of Dentists and Dental Hygienists
P.O. Box 146741
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6741

Dear Mr. Marx:

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations ("Joint Commission") appreciates the opportunity to assist your dental board by providing information concerning the cognitive skills of dental and dental hygiene candidates seeking licensure in your jurisdiction. In our continuing efforts to improve the quality, accuracy, and clinical relevance of information we provide, the Joint Commission is pleased to provide additional details concerning our efforts to introduce the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE), and share details concerning how and when implementation will occur.

The INBDE is a next generation assessment that will integrate the biomedical, behavioral, and clinical sciences, to provide dental boards with a summative evaluation concerning whether dental licensure candidates possess the level of cognitive skills necessary to safely practice dentistry. **The Joint Commission anticipates the INBDE will be available for administration on August 1, 2020, with full replacement of the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) scheduled to occur by August 1, 2022.** This letter serves as the official "four years' notice" the Joint Commission indicated it would provide to stakeholders and communities of interest, concerning these important events.

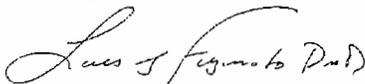
In anticipation of the release of the INBDE and the discontinuation of Parts I and II, the Joint Commission recommends your dental board undertake the following activities to learn about the INBDE and prepare to use it in licensure decision making:

- Review and monitor INBDE information on the Joint Commission's website (www.ada.org/JCNDE/INBDE).
- Attend the National Dental Examiners' Advisory Forum (NDEAF) annually.
- Review INBDE validity evidence and the results of field testing as these studies occur.
- Prepare to receive INBDE results on the first day of its availability.
- Consider whether any modifications to practice acts, rules, policies, or procedures will be required.
- Prepare to accept candidates who have successfully completed the National Boards. This could occur under either of the following sequences: 1) INBDE or 2) NBDE Parts I and II.
- Communicate information concerning the acceptability of the INBDE to future licensure candidates.

The Joint Commission recommends your dental board begin working with these considerations now, to ensure your board is prepared for the upcoming changes. Details concerning the INBDE implementation plan are enclosed. Dates appearing in the plan represent a best-case scenario and are subject to change. The Joint Commission's website contains additional background information concerning the INBDE, as well as information concerning communications and presentations on this topic to dental boards and communities of interest since 2010.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact the Joint Commission (nbexams@ada.org) and we will be happy to assist.

Sincerely,



Dr. Luis J. Fujimoto
Chair, Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations

Enclosure

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INBDE Implementation Plan and Recommended Actions

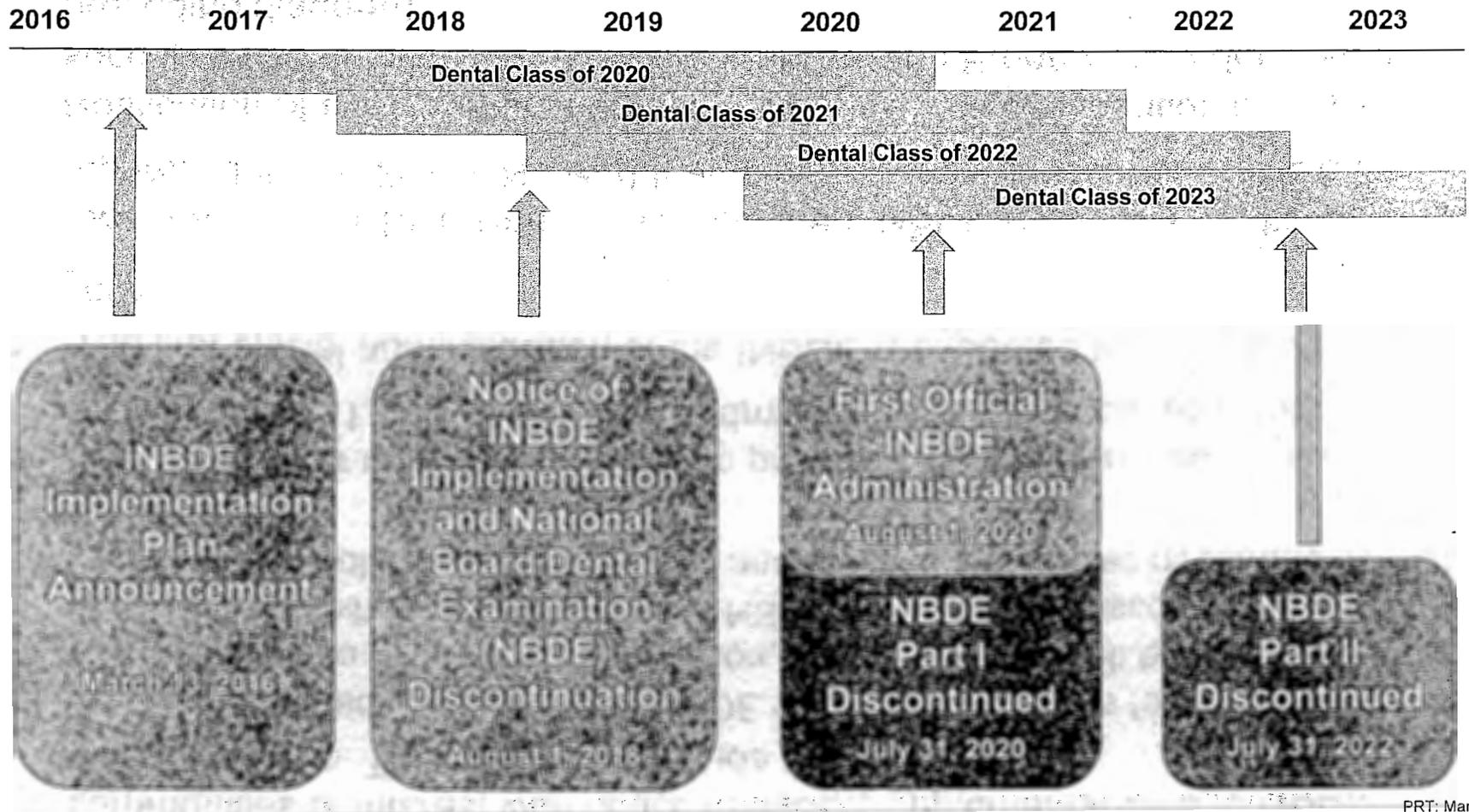
JCNDE JOINT COMMISSION
ON NATIONAL
DENTAL EXAMINATIONS

April 2016

INBDE Implementation Plan

- The Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) is an examination that is currently in development by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE).
- The INBDE is intended to replace National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Parts I and II. The INBDE is intended for use by state dental boards to help inform decision-making concerning the licensure of entry-level dentists.
- To address concerns from stakeholders and communities of interest regarding the timing of INBDE implementation, the JCNDE indicated it would provide four years' notice before the INBDE is implemented and the NBDE discontinued.
- The current presentation is designed to help address concerns regarding timing and provide this advance notification.
- This presentation provides stakeholders and communities of interest with information concerning how INBDE implementation will occur, the information that will be made available to help facilitate the transition, and recommended actions for stakeholders and communities of interest.
- The slide that follows shows key events associated with INBDE implementation, and the sequence of activity associated with the transition.

Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) Implementation Plan: "Best Case Scenario"



PRT: March 2016

Note: This implementation plan communicates the best case scenario. Dates presented should be interpreted as "no sooner than." Actual dates will be contingent upon field testing results. INBDE Practice Test Questions are anticipated for release in 2019.

INBDE Implementation Plan

- On August 1, 2018, the Joint Commission intends to provide stakeholders and communities of interest with notice of INBDE implementation and NBDE discontinuation. This notice will include the following:
 - The projected date when the INBDE will be first available for administration, the official name of the new examination, and how results will be reported.*
 - The dates when NBDE Part I and NBDE Part II will be discontinued.
 - Retesting policies, eligibility rules, and any additional rules needed to facilitate the transition.
- Two years after notification has been provided, NBDE Part I will be discontinued (approx. July 31, 2020). No Part I administrations will occur after this date.
- The first official administration of the INBDE is expected to take place on August 1, 2020.
- Two years after NBDE Part I is discontinued, NBDE Part II will be discontinued (approx. July 31, 2022). No Part II administrations will occur after this date.
- Notification of INBDE implementation and NBDE discontinuation is contingent upon successful completion of the INBDE Field Testing Program (not depicted in the preceding diagram).

* Similar to Part I and Part II, INBDE results will be reported as "Pass/Fail."

INBDE Implementation Plan

- In considering the dates provided, please note the following:
 - The plan as presented communicates the “best case scenario.”
 - The dates provided may be delayed if difficulties are encountered. However, the dates will not be “moved up” (e.g., NBDE Part I will be discontinued no sooner than August 1, 2020).
 - The Joint Commission reserves the right to make changes to the plan at any time and as needed, in keeping with the Joint Commission’s mission and purpose.
 - Any significant changes to this plan will be published as soon as information becomes available.
 - The final slide in the current presentation will provide a log of changes made.

Additional Information from the JCNDE

- Information concerning the INBDE is available via the Joint Commission's website (www.ada.org/JCNDE/INBDE).
- The following information is currently available and is updated as changes occur:
 - INBDE background
 - INBDE FAQ's
 - Domain of Dentistry and general validity evidence
 - Preliminary test specifications
 - Preliminary sample questions.
- The following information will be posted as soon as it becomes available:
 - INBDE practice test questions (anticipated one year in advance of initial INBDE administration)
 - Technical report(s) providing detailed information concerning validity.

INBDE Information from other Sources (not the JCNDE)

- INBDE eligibility rules for students of U.S. dental schools accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).
 - These rules are determined by each dental school.
- Additional school requirements concerning the INBDE (e.g., linking successful completion of the INBDE to graduation requirements).
 - These rules are determined by each dental school.
- Written examination requirements for each state.
 - These requirements are determined by each state dental board.

INBDE Implementation Plan Considerations

- The requirements of key stakeholders and communities of interest were carefully considered in developing the implementation plan.
 - State Dental Boards
 - Dental Schools
 - US Dental Licensure Candidates
- The following slides indicate specific considerations involving the aforementioned groups, as well as recommended actions.
- The considerations indicated should NOT be regarded as comprehensive of all of the INBDE-related interests of the aforementioned groups.

State Dental Boards

Implementation Plan Requirement	How Requirement is Addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sufficient time for state dental boards to assess and understand INBDE validity evidence. • Provide sufficient time for state dental boards to incorporate the INBDE into licensure decision-making and communicate its acceptability to future licensure candidates. • Provide sufficient time for state dental boards to prepare to receive INBDE results on day one of availability. • Consider whether any modifications to practice acts, rules, policies, or procedures will be required. • Provide sufficient time for state dental boards to accept both exam sequences: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) INBDE and 2) NBDE Parts I and II. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post and update validity information on JCNDE website as it becomes available. • Communicate validity information on annual basis at National Dental Examiners' Advisory Forum (NDEAF). • Release details of implementation plan in 2016, and provide the following notifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBDE first administration possible as soon as 2020. • NBDE Part I final administration possible in 2020. • NBDE Part II final administration possible in 2022. • Provide notice in 2016 of JCNDE plans for indicating the official name of the INBDE and how results will be reported. Current discussions indicate the JCNDE is likely to associate the name "NBDE" with the INBDE, to ease the transition with regard to state rules and practice acts.

Recommended Actions for State Dental Boards

- Understand the INBDE and keep apprised of new developments.
 - Review information concerning the INBDE on the Joint Commission's website (www.ada.org/JCNDE/INBDE), and attend the National Dental Examiners' Advisory Forum (NDEAF) annually.
 - Review INBDE validity evidence and the results of field testing as these studies occur.
 - Monitor the website to understand and prepare for any changes as they occur.
- Prepare to use the INBDE in licensure decision-making.
 - Consider whether any modifications to practice acts, rules, policies, or procedures will be required.
 - Prepare to receive INBDE results on day one of availability.
 - Prepare to accept candidates who have successfully completed the National Boards. This could occur under either of the following sequences: 1) INBDE or 2) NBDE Parts I and II.
 - Communicate information concerning the acceptability of the INBDE to future licensure candidates.

Dental Schools

Implementation Plan Requirement	How Requirement is Addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sufficient time for U.S. dental schools to adjust curricula and prepare students for the INBDE (also consistent with current CODA requirements). • Provide sufficient time for U.S. dental schools to adjust academic policy for incoming students regarding eligibility to sit for National Board Examinations. • Provide sufficient time for U.S. dental schools to adjust academic policy for incoming students regarding school utilization of NBDE Part I and II results (e.g., as prerequisites for students to continue their studies or as a graduation requirement). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release details of implementation plan in 2016, and provide the following notifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBDE first administration possible as soon as 2020. • NBDE Part I final administration possible in 2020. • NBDE Part II final administration possible in 2022. • Post INBDE preliminary sample questions publicly in 2016. • Provide INBDE practice test questions one year before INBDE initial administration. • Provide updates on the INBDE annually at the ADEA conference and subsequently post the presentations online.

Note: For US candidates, dental schools now approve the eligibility of Part I and Part II examinees and will determine when their students will transition to the new exam, within the feasible available options. For international candidates, eligibility for Parts I and II involves providing proof of dental school graduation (through ECE). This practice is expected to continue for the INBDE.

Recommended Actions for Dental Schools

- Understand the INBDE and keep apprised of new developments.
- Review information concerning the INBDE on the Joint Commission's website (www.ada.org/JCNDE/INBDE), and attend ADEA sessions on the INBDE.
- Review INBDE validity evidence and field testing results as these studies occur.
- Monitor the website to understand and prepare for any changes as they occur.
- Prepare your school and students for the INBDE.
 - Review and revise curricula to prepare students for the INBDE and the updated CODA standards.
 - Review academic policy for incoming students and revise as needed concerning:
 - student eligibility to sit for National Board Dental Examinations.
 - school utilization of NBDE Part I and II results.

U.S. Dental Licensure Candidates

Implementation Plan Requirement	How Requirement is Addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide U.S. dental licensure candidates with a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate competence with respect to the knowledge and skills required for licensure and measured by a written examination. • Provide reasonable time and sufficient notice so candidates can plan ahead and take action to avoid being “caught between examination programs” (e.g., preparing for Parts I and II but then finding themselves forced to shift to the INBDE). • Provide sufficient time for candidates to understand retesting policies concerning the INBDE and Parts I and II during the transition period, so candidates can plan and make decisions accordingly. • Provide test specifications and practice materials so candidates can prepare for the INBDE and know what types of questions to expect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin INBDE administrations before NBDE Part II is discontinued. • Release details of implementation plan in 2016, and provide the following notifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBDE first administration possible as soon as 2020. • NBDE Part I final administration possible in 2020. • NBDE Part II final administration possible in 2022. • Provide practice test questions one year before initial INBDE administration, and post INBDE preliminary sample questions publicly in 2016. • Provide notice in 2018 concerning INBDE retest policy, and coordinate INBDE retest policy with NBDE retest policy.

Recommended Actions for U.S. Dental Licensure Candidates

- Understand the INBDE and keep apprised of new developments.
 - Review information concerning the INBDE on the Joint Commission's website (www.ada.org/JCNDE/INBDE).
 - Review INBDE test specifications and practice questions.
 - Monitor the website to understand and prepare for any changes as they occur.
- Prepare for the National Board Examinations.
 - Determine which examination track to pursue (NBDE Parts I and II or the INBDE) in consultation with the most recent INBDE implementation plan and:
 - your dental school, its requirements, and your progress in meeting those requirements.
 - the dental boards of states where you intend to apply for licensure.
 - Joint Commission policies (e.g., retesting policies under both examination tracks).
 - Study the areas indicated in the test specifications of your intended examination track.

Implementation Plan Version History

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	3/13/2016	First publication. Presented to ADEA
1.1	3/17/2016	Slide 4 – Further clarified that no administrations for Part I or II would be conducted after the dates listed.
1.2	4/25/2016	Slide 10 – State Boards – consider modifications to practice acts, etc. (Mirror information in previous slide.)