

## Iowa Dental Board - April 3, 2020

The Iowa Dental Board meeting was held Friday, April 3, 2020. The meeting was via Zoom. There was minimal public attendance at the meeting. There were representatives from the Iowa Dental Association, the Iowa Dental Hygiene Association and their lobbyist, dentists from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Delta Dental representative, Iowa Department of Public Health, and teaching staff from a dental assisting college.

The featured program of special interest was a presentation by the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA). The Board Chair, Dr. Guy Champaine, and the Chief Executive Officer Alexander Vandiver gave an excellent presentation about a non-patient examination to apply for licensure. The process to construct the examination, confirm comparative evaluation to patient based tests, and thorough statistical analysis was very informative and convincing. The examination has been used for many years in other states. It has been statistically evaluated and compared to traditional dental licensure examinations. The evaluations have shown a comparable ability to identify diagnostic abilities and treatment decision making. Instead of focusing on a knowledge based test, the test evaluates diagnosis and treatment decision making. Critical thinking and decision making are tested.

There is a clinical portion of the test that requires restoring Class II and Class III restorations on a simulation tooth in a mannequin in a dental chair. The dental tooth has been developed with enamel and dentin similarities. Decay is present in the tooth similar to decay in a natural tooth. The similarity to natural tooth structure and decay variability is very evident.

Periodontal diagnosis and treatment are evaluated during the testing process. However, there is not a clinical component of the test for periodontal treatment. The presentation gave convincing credibility to establishing a non-patient examination for licensure.

The University of Iowa, College of Dentistry representatives supported the examination as a viable, credible alternative instead of the patient based examination. The College of Dentistry is very concerned about fourth year dental students who are missing months of valuable education and clinical experience due to the school shutdown in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic the CRDTS testing cannot be scheduled. There is uncertainty about scheduling it conveniently in the near future. Thus the graduating dental students will have uncertainty about receiving a dental license. The College of Dentistry staff asked the dental board for consideration in creating a process for graduate dental students to receive dental licenses.

Occasionally, there are requests for rule waivers for licensure for foreign trained dentists. Usually, this involves dentist teaching staff at the University of Iowa. Foreign trained dentists may become teaching staff at the college of dentistry. However, they cannot perform dental treatment outside of the college of dentistry. They cannot perform treatment in Iowa. The education background and the experience history of foreign trained dentists present a decision making challenge to the dental board regarding dental licensure in Iowa. A request for dental licensure from a foreign trained dentist with an extensive history of treatment in Florida, licensure in 3 other states, and a successful passing of a national licensure exam was denied.

The board voted to update the Expanded Function Training Course offered by the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry to update Level 2 Training, involving Acrylic Denture Adjustment.

The next dental board meeting is scheduled on June 5, 2020. Please consider attending the meeting. Possibly, this meeting will be held via Zoom. Zoom makes the meeting very accessible to all dentists in the state. The dental board respects and appreciates the attendance and involvement of dental licensees.

Dr. Stephen R. Thies  
Legislative Chair  
Iowa Academy of General Dentistry