

## **Important National Board Policy Updates and Notice about Interruption of Testing Services in January 2012**

The American Dental Association (ADA) and Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCND) are engaged in a major technology project to update the software systems that support the National Board Dental and Dental Hygiene Examinations (NBDE and NBDHE). These changes will impact all testing programs during the month of January 2012. These changes will allow us to better serve you; we appreciate your patience and apologize for any potential inconvenience. The services that will be affected and corresponding dates are listed below:

### **DENTPIN® Application and Retrieval System:**

- January 19, 2012 (5 p.m. CST) to January 30, 2012 – **No updates, retrieval or requests will be accepted or processed**
- January 31, 2012 – full system functionality resumes

### **Application Processing - NBDE (Part I and Part II) and NBDHE:**

- January 3, 2012 to January 19, 2012 (5 p.m. CST) – Normal application processing
- January 20, 2012 to January 30, 2012 – **No applications will be accepted or processed**
- January 31, 2012 – Normal application processing resumes

### **Score Processing - NBDE (Part I and Part II) and NBDHE:**

- Examinations taken January 3, 2012 to January 29, 2012 – No official score processing will occur
- January 30, 2012 – Score processing resumes; however, there may be a delay in mailing/transmission of score reports due to volume

### **Score Report Requests -- NBDE (Part I and Part II) and NBDHE:**

- January 3, 2012 to January 19, 2012 (5 p.m. CST) – Normal score report request processing for individuals who tested prior to January 1, 2012
- January 20, 2012 to January 30, 2012 – **No score report requests will be accepted or processed**
- January 31, 2012 – Normal score report request processing resumes

### **Testing -- NBDE (Part I and Part II) and NBDHE:**

- Testing at Prometric Test Centers (NBDE Part I and Part II) and Pearson Vue Centers (NBDHE) will be operational during January 2012, per normal test center schedules, for individuals who have received an eligibility letter prior to January 3, 2012 and scheduled a testing appointment.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS SCHEDULE AND SHARE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION WITH STUDENTS, COLLEAGUES AND OTHERS WHO MAY BE IMPACTED! Visit [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) for periodic updates to this information.**

Please also share the important information below regarding recent policy changes for the NBDE and NBDHE. These changes will become effective January 1, 2012.

## JCDNE Examination Policy Changes Effective January 2012

### ➤ **Shorter Application Eligibility Period**

Effective January 1, 2012, the application eligibility period for the NBDE Part I and Part II and the NBDHE will change from 12 months to 6 months.

A candidate will be eligible to schedule a testing appointment for a **six month period** following acceptance of his/her application to test. If a candidate does not schedule a testing appointment and take the examination within **six months**, a new application and fee must be submitted.

### ➤ **Limit on Examination Eligibility**

Candidates for the NBDE Part I, Part II, and the NBDHE shall be limited to successful completion of an examination within **five years** of testing **or five examination attempts**, whichever comes first. This policy will apply to testing attempts beginning January 1, 2012 or later.

### ➤ **Information About Examination Irregularities May Accompany Score Reports**

If it is determined that a candidate engaged in irregular behavior, information regarding this determination becomes a part of the candidate's National Board record. In its sole discretion, the JCNDE may elect to send a summary report documenting the incident, with a brief statement provided by the candidate immediately following the decision by the JCNDE to report, to legitimately interested parties, including all persons or agencies to which the candidate has instructed that scores be sent, both presently and in the future.

### ➤ **Complete Score History**

Currently score reports include scores from the most recent testing experience. Beginning January, 2012, a complete history of scores will be reported to each state board or other entity requested to receive scores. This means if a candidate has taken an examination ten times, all ten scores will be reported.

### ➤ **Time Limits for Retesting as a Result of an Appeal**

If the Joint Commission grants a candidate the opportunity to retest as a result of an appeal, the candidate must submit an application to retest within 30 days of receipt of the JCNDE's decision.

Upon processing of the application, the candidate will remain eligible to test for 90 days following the granting of an appeal and must retest before the eligibility expires, unless different conditions are specified in conjunction with granting the request for appeal.

## Questions?

Contact the Department of Testing Services 800.232.1694, [nbexams@ada.org](mailto:nbexams@ada.org)