

NMBODHC Emergency Rules for 2020 and 2021 Dental and Dental Hygiene Graduates-Licensure by Examination

October 22, 2021

DENTAL: For the purposes of allowing 2020 through 2022 dental graduates to become licensed by examination because of hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the specific portion of the rule requiring dental clinical exams to include “periodontal and restorative procedures *on patients in a clinical setting*” (16.5.6.8(C) NMAC) **will not be enforced until 12/31/2022***. As a substitute, and until 12/31/2022 for 2020, 2021 and 2022 dental graduates only, the board will accept the following:

A clinical periodontal exam is required, whether graduating in 2020, 2021, or 2022. All portions of the board-approved regional testing service exams are required, **including** a board-approved manikin-based exam for restorative procedures. Two direct restorations, amalgam and/or composite, are required within the rules of the examination. Currently, CRDTS, WREB, and those that administer the ADEX exam, have these manikin-based restorative and periodontal exams available, but candidates must confirm with each testing agency as to availability. **This expires December 31, 2022.**

For clarification, the traditional board-approved exams with current administrative rules as written and published 12/14/2019, are still acceptable (and preferable for portability) for licensure for 2020-22 dental graduates, and mandatory for any other licensure-by-examination applicants. **This rule exemption only applies to applicants for New Mexico dental licensure by examination until 12/31/2022, and does not apply to any other state licensure modifications or requirements, within or outside the state of New Mexico. The board requires traditional licensure by examination as published in 16.5.6 NMAC to resume after December 31, 2022.**

*Applicants who do not pass any portion of a previous clinical dental licensure exam, and for any reason, are ineligible for this substitute.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS EMERGENCY RULE EXEMPTION AND TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTION, APPLICATIONS FOR DENTAL LICENSURE MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2022 TO BE ELIGIBLE. THE BOARD EMPHASIZES THAT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY SOLUTION, AND DOES NOT ENDORSE ALTERNATIVE CLINICAL EXAMS THAT ARE NOT PATIENT-BASED AS A PERMANENT MODIFICATION.

HYGIENE: Licensure by examination requirements for dental hygiene remain unchanged as within 16.5.19 NMAC. The committee and board will accept exams given by CRDTS, WREB and those agencies that administer the ADEX exam, for the years 2020-22.

Dental hygiene local anesthesia certification requirements also remain in place with no modifications.