

April 10, 2020

William Kane, DDS
President, Missouri Dental Board
Email wtkane@newwavecomm.net

Dear Dr. Kane and Members of the Missouri Dental Board,

The Missouri Dental Association (MDA), MDA New Dentist Committee, UMKC School of Dentistry, ATSU Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health, and Southern Illinois University, are on record as advocating for dental licensure reform. Due to the current national crisis, dentists, dental educators, dental students and dental residents and their patients face unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances. We thank the MDB for working to provide an emergency rule allowing dental graduates a 90-day temporary license to work under a licensed Missouri dentist.

However, another very real challenge for dental students and residents is their inability to complete the licensure process. The cause of this delay is a step in the licensure process which requires candidates for dental licensure to be examined by performing specific dental procedures on a live patient. Therefore, we are asking for consideration of several alternatives to the use of single-encounter patient-based examinations for dental licensure over the long-term.

For example, the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) has developed the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE). The JCNDE has a long and distinguished track record of providing valid and reliable high-stakes examinations for dental licensure purposes and to protect the public health. The DLOSCE is a content-valid examination that assesses candidates' clinical judgment and skills using sophisticated 3-D models without the need to involve live patients. The JCNDE is planning a webinar in mid-April to discuss the newly-developed DLOSCE and address questions related to the examination and its release in mid-June. We hope you will agree and support the use of the DLOSCE in Missouri. We are hearing of other board examining agencies who also are creating all manikin-based exams.

Other alternatives include completion of a clinically-based postdoctoral general practice or specialty dental residency program of at least one year's duration. This pathway is currently accepted for licensure in several states. In these programs, residents are required to demonstrate competency over time rather than capturing a snapshot in a single moment. Another alternative is the Portfolio/Compendium of Clinical Competency currently accepted in four states. These are standardized compilations of clinical competency assessments designed to demonstrate psychomotor skills and practice-relevant patient care knowledge, skills and abilities on patients of record across all four years of dental school.

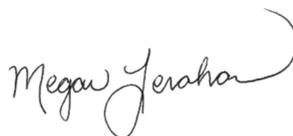
The circumstances created by COVID-19 heighten the need to consider offering alternatives to the requirement to perform dental procedures on live patients for the licensure examination process.

The below organizations wish to create non-patient-based opportunities for dental graduates to receive licensure in the State of Missouri, while maintaining what is essential to ensure clinical competency for dental licensure. We ask for your consideration to explore these alternatives to the licensure requirements for dentists and dental specialists in our state.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Berry, DDS
President
Missouri Dental Association



Megan E. Lenahan, DDS
Chair, New Dentist Committee
Missouri Dental Association



Marsha A. Pyle, DDS, MEd, Dean
UMKC School of Dentistry



Dwight E. McLeod, DDS, MS, Dean
Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health



Bruce E. Rotter, DMD, MS, Dean
SIU School of Dental Medicine

cc: Brian Barnett, Executive Director, Missouri Dental Board