



Commission on Dental Accreditation

Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Pediatric Dentistry

On February 6, 2026, the Commission on Dental Accreditation adopted the proposed revisions to Standard 4-20 (management of a contemporary dental practice) of the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education in Pediatric Dentistry related to patient safety and directed revision of all related documents, for implementation on July 1, 2027.

Additions are underlined;

~~Strikethroughs~~ indicate deletions

1 **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED REVISION TO ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR**
2 **ADVANCED DENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY RELATED TO**
3 **PATIENT SAFETY**

4
5 **STANDARD 4 – CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DURATION**

6
7 **MANAGEMENT OF A CONTEMPORARY DENTAL PRACTICE**

8
9 4-20 Didactic Instruction: Didactic instruction **must** be at the understanding level and include:

- 10
11 a. The design, implementation and management of a contemporary practice of pediatric
12 dentistry, emphasizing business skills for proper and efficient practice;
13 b. Jurisprudence and risk management specific to the practice of Pediatric Dentistry;
14 c. Use of technology in didactic, clinical and research endeavors, as well as in practice
15 management and telehealth systems;
16 d. Principles of biomedical ethical reasoning, ethical decision making and professionalism
17 as they pertain to the academic environment, research, patient care and practice
18 management; and
19 e. Working cooperatively with consultants and clinicians in other dental specialties and health
20 fields, including interprofessional education activities.

21
22 Didactic instruction **must** be at the in-depth level for the following:

- 23
24 f. The development and monitoring of systems for prevention and management of
25 adverse events and medical emergencies in the dental setting;
26 g. Exposure to the principles of quality management systems and the role of continuous
27 process improvement in achieving overall quality in the dental practice setting;
28 h. Exposure to the principles of ethics and professionalism in dental practice is an
29 integral component of all aspects of this process improvement experience; and
30 ~~i. Employing principles of continuous quality improvement, and infection control, and safety,~~
31 ~~including an understanding of the mechanisms to ensure a safe practice environment.~~
32 i. Utilization of programs, policies, and procedures to enhance patient safety, including the
33 employment of continuous quality improvement and infection control.

34
35 **Intent:** (d) Graduates should draw on a range of resources such as professional codes, regulatory law, and
36 ethical theories to guide judgment and action for issues that are complex, novel, ethically arguable, divisive,
37 or of public concern, (e) The student/resident learns to prevent, recognize and manage common medical
38 emergencies for infants and children through adolescence and when to refer to other health care
39 professionals and (g) Graduates should experience the elements of process improvement and the manner in
40 which to involve the entire team (i) An ongoing, comprehensive focus on promoting safety and quality
41 improvement is an essential part of quality patient care. Students/Residents are exposed throughout training
42 to theoretical and practical means to ensure that consideration of patient safety is routine and consistent.

43
44 Examples of evidence may include (d ~~and~~ g, and i):

- 45
46 • Participation in courses or seminars involving biomedical ethics and/or informed consent issues;
47 • Institutional review boards;
48 • Literature reviews;
49 • Discussion of case scenarios;
50 • Emergency drills;
51 • Quality improvement projects;
52 • Interprofessional education and practice experiences;
53 • Standardized simulations;

- 1 • Standardized case studies; and
- 2 • Standardized clinical scenarios.
- 3 • Active on-going safety training program, such as:
- 4 • Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)
- 5 • Root Cause Analysis
- 6 • Other safety-focused protocols
- 7

8 4-21 Clinical Experiences: Clinical experiences **must** enable students/residents to be involved in a
9 structured system of continuous quality improvement for patient care.

10
11 *Intent: Programs are expected to involve students/residents in quality improvement activities to understand*
12 *the process and contribute to patient care improvement.*