

REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON ORAL MEDICINE EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chair: Dr. Scott De Rossi. Committee Members: Dr. Jennifer Barber, Dr. Michael DeBellis, Dr. Lina Mejia, and Dr. Thomas Sollecito. Guest (Open Session Only, Virtual): Dr. Sheila Brear, chief learning officer, American Dental Education Association, attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Ms. Peggy Soeldner, senior manager, Administration and Committees; Dr. Yesenia Ruiz and Ms. Taylor Weast, managers, Advanced Dental Education, and Ms. Bridget Blackwood, senior project assistant, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The meeting of the Review Committee on Oral Medicine Education (OM RC) was held on January 7, 2025 via a virtual meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ORAL MEDICINE EDUCATION

Informational Report on Oral Medicine Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Data (p. 1600): At its Winter 2015 meeting, the Commission directed that all Review Committees consider the informational report on aggregate data from the Curriculum Section of the Annual Survey in years when this data is available. At this meeting, the Oral Medicine RC reviewed the informational report on aggregate data from the Curriculum Section for the oral medicine programs conducted in August/September 2024, without comment.

Recommendation: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.

Consideration of Accreditation Standards for Oral Medicine Programs Related to Administrative Oversight at Major Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs (p. 1601): At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) directed an Ad Hoc or Standing Committee to investigate in-person, on-site work expectations for program directors to determine if changes are needed in the discipline-specific Accreditation Standards for dental education, advanced dental education, and allied dental education programs. As directed, in advance of the Summer 2024 CODA meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee, which was comprised of all current CODA Commissioners, reviewed the background materials, which included the Commission's action leading to the Ad Hoc Committee, and the Standards for each discipline related to program director (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 1601**). The Committee noted that while all CODA Standards have a requirement for clinical supervision at all educational activity sites, most Standards do not address overall administrative oversight of the program, by the program director or a designee, at all sites where a student spends a majority or all their time. The Committee discussed whether virtual oversight or assignment of a responsible individual would be appropriate at all educational sites. The Committee believed there must be consistency in the educational program at all program sites. Following consideration, the Ad Hoc Committee concluded that each Review Committee that does not currently have a Standard related to administrative oversight at major educational activity sites (e.g., off-campus sites where students spend a majority or all their time) should review this topic and determine whether a Standard is needed to address the Commission's expectation for administrative oversight, for consideration by the Commission in Winter 2025. In considering this matter, the Commission noted that inclusion of Intent Statements, in conjunction with proposed Standards, could further clarify the

flexibility permitted for programs to oversee educational sites in a variety of ways, while ensuring administrative oversight and consistency in the educational program across all sites. At its Summer 2024 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation concurred with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee.

At its Winter 2025 meeting, the Review Committee on Oral Medicine Education (OM RC) considered the oral medicine Accreditation Standards (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 1601**) related to administrative oversight at major educational activity sites (e.g., off-campus sites where students spend a majority or all their time) to determine whether revisions are needed to address the Commission's expectation for administrative oversight. The Review Committee noted that Standard 3-2 addresses program director responsibilities but does not directly address responsibilities for activities at major sites where educational activity occurs.

Following consideration, the Review Committee determined that while no Standard directly addresses overall administrative oversight of the program by the program director or a designee at all sites where a resident spends a majority or all their time, Standard 3-2 meets the intent by requiring the program director to have sufficient time and authority to fulfill administrative and teaching responsibilities in order to achieve the educational goals of the program. Therefore, the OM RC believed the addition of a Standard related to administrative oversight at major sites where educational activity occurs is not warranted. However, the OM RC believed Standard 3-2 and its intent statement could be strengthened by adding an additional responsibility that includes ensuring on-site clinical supervision and administrative oversight at each major site where educational activity occurs. The proposed revision to the Oral Medicine Accreditation Standards, specifically, the intent statement for Standard 3-2 is found in **Appendix 1**. Because the proposed revision is to the intent statement for clarity of the Standard, the OM RC believed circulation to the communities of interest is not warranted and the proposed revision should be implemented immediately.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation adopt the proposed revision to the intent statement of Standard 3-2 of the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral Medicine (**Appendix 1**) related to administrative oversight at major sites where educational activity occurs with immediate implementation.

Consideration of Accreditation Standards for Oral Medicine Programs Related to Diversity and Humanistic Culture and Learning Environment (p. 1602): On December 1, 2023, the Commission received a letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (TNCDHE) (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 1602**), which provided short-term and long-term suggestions to CODA to improve diversity in all academic dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education programs. In Winter 2024, each Review Committee of the Commission provided comment to CODA on TNCDHE letter. Following consideration of Review Committee Reports, the Commission directed establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee composed of all Commissioners who chair the discipline-specific Review Committees in dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education, and additional CODA Commissioners, to study the Accreditation Standards for possible revision related to the letter from TNCDHE.

In advance of the Commission's Summer 2024 meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee, which was comprised of all current CODA Commissioners, reviewed the background materials, which included the prior work of the Commission on this topic, the letters from TNCDHE, CODA Standards related to diversity and the humanistic culture including proposed revisions, Annual Survey data on dental programs related to diversity, and information from other accrediting agencies. The Committee noted that this is an important topic, but other considerations must also be acknowledged including differences among institutions related to missions, resources, funding, state and federal regulations, and legal considerations. It was noted that some states do not permit initiatives focused on diversity, and the Commission cannot impose Standards that would conflict with state or federal law. As such, the Committee noted the proposed predoctoral dental education Standard revision, which discusses diversity efforts, would be consistent with university policy and state law. At its Summer 2024 meeting, following consideration of the Ad Hoc Committee Report, the Commission directed that all Review Committees consider the proposed revisions for the Dental Standards 1-2 and 1-3 and revisions for the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Standards 1-11 and 2-1.7 (adopted Summer 2024), for possible inclusion of similar Standards within the Review Committee's own discipline(s) to address diversity and the humanistic culture, with a report to the Commission in Winter 2025.

At its Winter 2025 meeting, the Review Committee on Oral Medicine Education (OM RC) considered the oral medicine Accreditation Standards, and reference materials including the proposed Dental Standards 1-2 and 1-3 and adopted revisions for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Standards 1-11 and 2-1.7 (**Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 1602**) for possible inclusion of similar Standards to address diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment. The OM RC believed the oral medicine Accreditation Standards currently address diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment. Further, the OM RC expressed uncertainty in moving forward with revisions due to differences among institutions related to missions, resources, funding, state and federal regulations, and legal considerations.

Following consideration, the Review Committee determined that Standards already exist which address diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment. The Committee identified that the Goals section of the oral medicine Standards address these areas by including a goal related to utilizing "the values of professional ethics, lifelong learning, patient centered care, adaptability, and acceptance of cultural diversity in professional practice" and another, understanding "the oral health needs of communities and engaging in community service." Additionally, the OM RC noted that Standard 5-2, states in the intent statement that "written non-discriminatory policies are to be followed in selecting residents." Therefore, the OM RC believed no further revisions are warranted at this time within the oral medicine Accreditation Standards. The OM RC believed revisiting this topic at its Summer 2025 meeting may be warranted, since new federal regulations or laws may be changed or implemented. Therefore, the OM RC also recommended postponing final consideration at this time and reconsidering this topic at its Summer 2025 meeting.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct there be no revision at this time to the Accreditation Standards for Advanced

Dental Education Programs in Oral Medicine related to diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment.

It is further recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Oral Medicine Education Review Committee to further consider the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral Medicine related to diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment, with a report to the Commission in Summer 2025.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATING TO MORE THAN ONE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Matters related to more than one review committee are included in a separate report.

CONSIDERATION OF SITE VISITOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION IN THE AREA OF ORAL MEDICINE EDUCATION

The Review Committee on Oral Medicine Education (OM RC) considered site visitor appointments for 2025-2026. The Committee's recommendations on the appointments of individuals are included in a separate report.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Scott DeRossi
Chair, Review Committee on Oral Medicine Education

Commission on Dental Accreditation

Proposed Revision to Intent Statement of Standard 3-2

Additions are Underlined

Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral Medicine

