REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON OROFACIAL PAIN EDUCATION TO
THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chair: Dr. Joseph Cohen. Committee Members: Dr. Reny de Leeuw; Dr. Gary Heir; Dr. Bessie Katsilometes; and Dr. Robert Windsor. Guest (Open Session Only): Dr. Jeffery Stewart, senior vice president, Interprofessional and Global Collaboration and acting chief, Office of Learning and Interprofessional Collaboration, American Dental Education Association, attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Member: Ms. Peggy Soeldner, manager, Advanced Dental Education, CODA. The meeting of the Review Committee on Orofacial Pain Education (OFP RC) was held on January 10, 2022 via a virtual meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO OROFACIAL PAIN EDUCATION

Consideration of Proposed Revision to Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain Related to Patients With Special Needs (p. 1700):

On June 22, 2021, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a request from the American Dental Association’s Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) to consider revising the Accreditation Standards to require graduates to be competent in treating patients with special needs. The Council on Dental Education and Licensure’s request is found in (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 1700).

At its Summer 2021 meeting, the Review Committee on Advanced Education in General Dentistry, General Practice Residency, Dental Anesthesiology, Oral Medicine, and Orofacial Pain (AGDOO RC) considered the request for proposed revision to the Accreditation Standards submitted by the CDEL. The AGDOO RC noted the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Education in Orofacial Pain do not directly address patients with special needs beyond providing a definition for this term and recommended that the Accreditation Standards be further studied to determine whether modification of existing Standards or development of new Standard(s) related to patients with special needs is warranted. Further, the AGDOO RC recommended that the new Review Committee on Orofacial Pain Education, which would conduct its first meeting in Winter 2022, further study its specific Accreditation Standards. At its August 5, 2021 meeting, the Commission agreed and directed the new Orofacial Pain Review Committee further study the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain to determine whether modification of existing Standards or development of new Standard(s) related to patients with special needs is warranted with a report to the Commission at its Winter 2022 meeting.

At this meeting, the Orofacial Pain Review Committee (OFP RC) further considered the request for proposed revision of the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain submitted by the CDEL. The OFP RC noted the existing definition of patients with special needs found in the “Definition” section of the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain. Following considerable discussion, the OFP RC recognized the need to strengthen the Accreditation Standards in the area of patients with special needs.
needs and believed the addition of a new Accreditation Standard, or modification of an existing Accreditation Standard is warranted. The OFP RC noted the Commission conduct the Validity and Reliability Study for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain in Spring 2022, which could provide feedback from the communities of interest, as well as result in additional Standards revisions. Therefore, the OFP RC believed further consideration of the addition or modification of an Accreditation requirement related to patients with special needs should be postponed until the results of the Validity and Reliability Study are considered at the Summer 2022 meeting of the OFP RC.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct further study of the request from the Council on Dental Education and Licensure related to patients with special needs considered at the time of review of the results of the Validity and Reliability Study for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain, with a report to the Commission in Summer 2022.

**Report on Advanced Dental Education in Orofacial Pain Annual Survey Curriculum Section (p. 1701):** The Review Committee on Orofacial Pain (OFP RC) noted that the Annual Survey Curriculum Section is reviewed during the Winter Review Committee meeting in the year the survey will be distributed; which will next occur in 2022. Additionally, the OFP RC noted that at its Summer 2020 meeting, the Commission approved revisions to the Annual Survey Curriculum Section for implementation in Fall 2022.

At this meeting, the OFP RC considered its discipline-specific Annual Survey Curriculum Section (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 1701). Through discussion, the OFP RC noted that the questions on the Annual Survey Curriculum Section generally correlate to the Accreditation Standards and should be retained with no changes for use in Fall 2022.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Orofacial Pain Annual Survey Curriculum Section (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 1701) be retained with no changes for use in Fall 2022.

**Informational Report on the Conduct of a Validity and Reliability Study for the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain (p. 1702):** The Accreditation Standards for Advanced Education Programs in Orofacial Pain were adopted by the Commission on Dental Accreditation at its August 5, 2015 meeting for implementation on July 1, 2017.

As stated in the Commission’s “Policy on Assessing the Validity and Reliability of the Accreditation Standards” (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 1702), the Commission believes that a minimum time span should elapse between the adoption of new standards or implementation of standards that have undergone a comprehensive revision and the assessment of the validity and reliability of these standards. This minimum period of time is directly related to the academic length of the accredited programs in each discipline. The Commission believes this minimum
period is essential in order to allow time for programs to implement the new standards and to gain experience in each year of the curriculum.

The Commission’s policy for assessment is based on the following formula:

> The validity and reliability of accreditation standards will be assessed after they have been in effect for a period of time equal to the minimum academic length of the accredited program plus three years.

Thus, the validity and reliability of the new standards for a one-year program will be assessed after four years, while standards applying to programs two years in length will be assessed five years after implementation.

In cooperation with the ADA’s HPI, a timetable will be developed, surveys will be distributed to the audiences, and responses will be due to the HPI within two weeks of receipt of the survey. A sample format of the survey is presented in Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 1702. Following a period of follow-up with non-respondents, the data will be tabulated and analysis completed by June 1, 2022. Commission staff will prepare a report with results of the study for consideration by the Commission at its Summer 2022 meeting.

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

**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 OROFACIAL PAIN EDUCATION**

The Review Committee on Orofacial Pain Education considered site visitor appointments for 2022-2023. 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. Joseph Cohen
Chair, Review Committee on Orofacial Pain Education