

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ADVANCED DENTAL EDUCATION DELIVERY MODELS AND COMBINED PROGRAMS

Background: At its Winter 2022 meeting, the Commission directed the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to consider the changing landscape of healthcare delivery centers that may sponsor advanced dental education programs and the increased interest in creation and potential accreditation of combined advanced dental education programs in two (2) discipline areas, with a report to the Commission in Summer 2022.

The following individuals composed the Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Advanced Dental Education Delivery Models and Combined Programs: Dr. Joel Berg (chair and PED RC), Dr. Evanthia Anadioti (PROS RC), Dr. Victor Badner (DPH RC), Dr. Joseph Cohen (OP RC), Dr. Scott DeRossi (OM RC), Dr. Scott DeVito (Public), Dr. Joseph Giovannitti (DENTANES RC), Dr. John Hellstein (OMP RC), Dr. James Katancik (PERIO RC), Dr. George Kushner (OMS RC), Dr. Brent Larson (ORTHO RC), Dr. Sanjay Mallya (OMR RC, CODA Vice-Chair), Dr. Garry Myers (ENDO RC), and Dr. Miriam Robbins (PGD RC). The Ad Hoc Committee conducted meetings on May 11, 2022 (all members present except Dr. Cohen, Dr. DeVito, and Dr. Hellstein) and July 29, 2022, (all members present except Dr. Anadioti, Dr. Badner, Dr. DeRossi, Dr. DeVito, and Dr. Mallya). Dr. Sherin Tooks, director, CODA, Ms. Kirsten Nadler, Ms. Jennifer Snow, and Ms. Peggy Soeldner, managers, Advanced Dental Education, CODA, were in attendance at all meetings. Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, senior associate general counsel, CODA/ADA, attended the May 11, 2022 meeting.

May 11, 2022 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting: The Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Advanced Dental Education Delivery Models and Combined Programs met on May 11, 2022 via a virtual meeting. The Committee began its meeting with a review of the Committee's charge. The Committee discussed the following items related to institutional sponsorship of advanced dental education programs: institutional accreditation by a United States Department of Education-recognized agency or other appropriate agency, proper institutional chartering and licensure to operate and offer instruction, and the definition and oversight of a "health care organization." The Committee noted the need for additional information related to these items and how this information may necessitate proposed Standards revisions to address the existing variations in terminology used across the 14 sets of Accreditation Standards for advanced dental education programs.

Next, the Committee considered the potential accreditation of combined advanced dental education programs in two (2) discipline areas, discussing concerns such as the creation of "on-demand" Standards and associated Self-Study and Site Visitor Evaluation Reports, as well as the number of potential candidates and ability of combined programs to maintain enrollment each year.

The Committee noted that mechanisms are currently in place to allow students/residents to be co-enrolled in two (2) separately CODA-accredited programs in two (2) discipline areas. The Ad

Hoc Committee noted the existing Commission policies pertaining to Reporting Program Changes (with regard to adding part-time and advanced standing program tracks to currently accredited programs), Enrollment Increases in Advanced Dental Education Programs (with regard to increasing programs' authorized enrollment to account for additional part-time enrollment), and the Qualifications of a Program Director for a Combined Advanced Dental Education Program. Under the existing policies and procedures, the respective Review Committee of the discipline maintains oversight of the program's ability to comply with Accreditation Standards following implementation of such program changes. It was noted that when two (2) disciplines are combined, two (2) discipline Review Committees would be required to ensure that compliance is maintained relative to each discipline, while coordinating review among both disciplines and committees.

Through discussion, the Ad Hoc Committee believed that there could be difficulty in assessing a combined program at the site visitor level, and that currently accredited combined programs (e.g. orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics/periodontics) should complete a self-study in both of its disciplines to avoid confusion as to the specific requirements that must be reviewed for both disciplines.

Following careful consideration, the Ad Hoc Committee believed that creation and accreditation of new combined programs in two (2) discipline areas should not be implemented. Instead, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the existing mechanisms allowing programs to create advanced standing tracks and part-time tracks, to co-enroll students/residents in two (2) separately accredited programs, should be provided and explained to interested programs.

July 29, 2022 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting: The Ad Hoc Committee began with a review of its charge and a summary of prior discussion related to the potential accreditation of combined advanced dental education programs in two (2) discipline areas. At this meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee affirmed its belief that creation and accreditation of new combined programs in two (2) discipline areas should not be implemented. The Ad Hoc Committee continued to recommend that the existing mechanisms allowing programs to create advanced standing tracks and part-time tracks, to co-enroll students/residents in two (2) separately accredited programs, should be provided and explained to interested programs. Following discussion, the Ad Hoc Committee firmly believed that the program lengths of the two (2) separately accredited programs should not be unduly shortened when programs seek to co-enroll students/residents, while noting that the award of advanced standing in accordance with Accreditation Standards is permissible. Further, the Ad Hoc Committee considered the potential for an institution to determine that it does not desire adding an advanced standing and/or part-time program track to existing accredited programs. Instead, an institution might elect to pursue application for accreditation of a new combined program in two (2) advanced dental education disciplines. The Ad Hoc Committee believed that such requests should be formally reviewed by the Commission, noting that CODA could reference Commission policies such as *Policies and Procedures for Accreditation of Programs in A New Dental Education Area or Discipline*, when considering such a request. Furthermore, the Commission should determine whether establishing

Accreditation Standards and related documents for combined programs is warranted (i.e., interest, need, resources, etc.) before the Commission will apply its accreditation process to a combined (two-discipline) program. Lastly, the Ad Hoc Committee reiterated its belief that currently accredited combined programs (e.g. orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics/periodontics) should complete a self-study in both of its disciplines.

With regard to healthcare delivery centers that may sponsor advanced dental education programs, the Ad Hoc Committee revisited its primary questions related to institutional accreditation by a United States Department of Education-recognized agency or other appropriate agency, proper institutional chartering and licensure to operate and offer instruction, and the definition and oversight of a “health care organization.” Additionally, the Ad Hoc Committee considered institutional sponsorship and required hospital affiliation as it may pertain to specific advanced dental education disciplines that include a hospital component to the educational training. The Ad Hoc Committee learned that the Commission’s Standing Committee on Finance has authorized use of Administrative Funds to retain the services of a legal consultant to provide additional data on these items; therefore, the Ad Hoc Committee determined that it would be most prudent to conduct an additional meeting after receipt of the legal consultant’s report in order to carefully review this information and formulate a final recommendation to the Commission for review at its Winter 2023 meeting.

Summary: In summary, the Ad Hoc Committee determined that creation of Accreditation Standards and related documents for new combined programs in two (2) discipline areas should not be implemented. The Ad Hoc Committee concluded that the existing mechanisms allowing programs to create advanced standing tracks and part-time tracks to co-enroll students/residents in two (2) separately accredited programs should be provided and explained to interested programs. Further, the Ad Hoc Committee believed that any future requests from an institution to pursue application for accreditation of a new combined program in two (2) dental disciplines should be formally reviewed by the Commission to determine whether the Commission will apply its accreditation process to a combined (two-discipline) program. The Ad Hoc Committee noted that the Commission could refer to policies, such as *Policies and Procedures for Accreditation of Programs in A New Dental Education Area or Discipline*, for future requests.

The Ad Hoc Committee further recommended that the Commission direct continued review by the Committee, following receipt of the report of the recently retained legal consultant, to formulate a final recommendation to the Commission pertaining to healthcare delivery centers that may sponsor advanced dental education programs, for review at its Winter 2023 meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct that it not establish a process for accreditation of combined advanced dental education programs in two (2) discipline areas.

It is further recommended that the Commission direct formal review of any future requests for the development of Standards and related documents for accreditation of a

new combined program in two (2) disciplines, in accordance with Commission policies and procedures, to determine whether development of an accreditation process for a combined (two-discipline) program is warranted.

It is further recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Advanced Dental Education Delivery Models and Combined Programs to continue its review of the changing landscape of healthcare delivery centers that may sponsor advanced dental education programs, with a report to the Commission in Winter 2023.

Commission Action: