



POLICY STATEMENT ON LICENSURE AND LICENSURE PORTABILITY

Approved by the Executive Committee on June 5, 2025

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

CMDL advocates to preserve the integrity of the dental licensure process and eliminate actual or perceived conflicts of interest in the licensure process. When a state dental board member is also serving as an examiner for a clinical testing agency or commission, their dual role may compromise—or appear to compromise—their impartiality in decisions about exam approval. Even absent intentional bias, this overlap can erode public trust. Full disclosure of affiliations and appropriate recusal from related deliberations and decisions are necessary to ensure fair, transparent, and ethically sound governance that prioritizes public protection above all else.

LICENSURE

The Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure (CMDL) advocates for an initial licensure process for dentists and dental hygienists that includes valid and reliable assessment methods.

CMDL supports the acceptance of all valid, reliable, and ethical pathways to initial licensure and advocates for evidence of the ethics, validity, and reliability of licensure examinations to be made publicly available. The CMDL advocates that the initial licensure process must include:

- Graduation from a CODA-accredited dental or dental hygiene education program, and
- Passage of the national board examination(s), and
- Successful completion of a valid, reliable, and ethical assessment of readiness for practice.

LICENSURE PORTABILITY

CMDL advocates for enhanced licensure portability for licensed dentists and dental hygienists to facilitate professional mobility and improve access to care. To advance licensure portability, licensing jurisdictions are strongly encouraged to:

- Accept all valid, reliable, and ethical pathways to licensure
- Adopt the Dentist and Dental Hygienist (DDH) Compact
- Implement universal licensure procedures
- Establish a common core of credentialing requirements for licensure by credentials