

NMBODHC Emergency Rule for 2020 Dental and Dental Hygiene Graduates-Licensure by Examination

May 15, 2020

DENTAL: For the purposes of allowing 2020 dental graduates to become licensed by examination because of hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the specific portion of the rule requiring dental clinical examinations to include “periodontal and restorative procedures on patients in a clinical setting” (within 16.5.6.8(C) NMAC) will not be enforced until 12/31/2020*. As a substitute, and until 12/31/2020 for 2020 dental graduates only, the board will accept the following:

All portions of the board-approved regional testing service examinations, **including** a board-approved manikin-based test for restorative and periodontal procedures, will be allowed for 2020 dental graduates only. WREB CTP satisfies the periodontal requirements.

For clarification, the traditional board-approved examinations with current administrative rules as written and published 12/14/2019, are still acceptable (and preferable for portability) for licensure for 2020 dental graduates, and mandatory for any other licensure-by-examination applicants. This rule exemption only applies to applicants for New Mexico dental licensure by examination for the calendar year 2020, and does not apply to any other state licensure modifications or requirements, within or outside the state of New Mexico. The board requires traditional licensure by examination as published in 16.5.6 NMAC to resume January 1, 2021.

*Applicants who do not pass any portion of a previous clinical dental licensure exam, and for any reason, are ineligible for this substitute.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS EMERGENCY RULE EXEMPTION AND TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTION, APPLICATIONS FOR DENTAL LICENSURE MUST BE RECEIVED BY JAN 31, 2021 TO BE ELIGIBLE. THE BOARD EMPHASIZES THAT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY SOLUTION, AND DOES NOT ENDORSE ALTERNATIVE CLINICAL EXAMINATIONS THAT ARE NOT PATIENT-BASED AS A PERMANENT MODIFICATION.