

New ABP Section D Guidelines Released

The American Board of Prosthodontics is pleased to announce the newest component of the certifying examination – Section D. The examination offers implant-based patient presentations and oral examinations through a format that invites candidates to share their breadth of knowledge and clinical ability. The examination includes biologic and clinical aspects of implant prosthodontics and emphasizes biologic interfaces, biomaterials, osseous structures and soft tissues.

Section D was developed with consideration of the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation Advanced Specialty Education Standards for Prosthodontics implemented July 1, 2016. The examination includes the broad scope of implant placement as an integrated component of patient diagnosis and treatment planning, prognosis, adjunctive hard and soft tissue procedures, restorative procedures, outcomes and maintenance.

All graduates of CODA recognized specialty programs are eligible to challenge this examination. Examination content directly relates to the educational expectations of specialty program graduates and parallel evolution of patient care and prosthodontic practice.

Section D has three 20-minute segments:

1. Presentation of two patient treatments - a tooth-bounded (receiving one or more implants) space and an unbounded (receiving one or more implants) edentulous space. The unbounded edentulous space may be an edentulous arch restored with a fixed prosthesis(es).
2. Oral examination based on standardized questions.
3. Oral examination based on open questioning related to the broad scope of implant dentistry and potentially the presented patient treatments.

Candidates must perform all surgical and prosthodontic procedures for the patient treatments being examined. This expectation parallels the CODA Standards that prescribe advanced prosthodontic program graduate competence in dental implant placement.

In addition to completing the Section A Written Examination, candidates must still complete at least two examinations within Section B. Candidates may use the Section D (Implant-based) examination as an option to replace the Section C (Scenarios) examination when only two Section B parts are selected.

Section D will be first offered during the February 2017 ABP Examination in Chicago.

Full examination guidelines that include required patient documentation and evaluation criteria may be found online at <https://www.abpros.org/abp/certification.asp>. Questions regarding the examination process may be directed to Dr. Tom D. Taylor (ttaylorabpros@comcast.net).