

The AADB Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact:

Streamling Licensure Without Compromise

HOW?

Protects the public

The AADB Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact protects the public in three different ways:

 Licenses Persons with Compact Privilege apply for licenses through a portal to each jurisdiction, keeping boards in control of who can practice in their state and holding each licensee accountable to local rules and regulations.	 Standards Minimum competency standards include a demonstration of hand-skills, or 5-years in practice with a license in good standing in any/all jurisdictions where currently permitted to do so.	 Discipline Through the utilization of the existing, AADB Clearing house of discipline & actions, boards have access to a complete log of any board action or discipline in every Member State, preserving transparency and a quality workforce.
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HOW?

Keeps states independent

The AADB Compact legislation ensures states maintain governing independence by ensuring that all rule making, the issuance of licenses and disciplinary actions remain within the power of each jurisdictions' board or existing authority. The AADB Compact Commission serves to represent stakeholders in licensure not to intervene.

How?

Uniform Standards

Understanding that all persons issued a Compact License will qualify to practice in any Compact Member State, the AADB Compact Commission reviewed the initial licensure requirements of all 35 member boards of dentistry to establish uniform licensure requirements. These requirements pertain to education, disciplinary action, and competency to practice.

Who can participate in the AADB Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact?

To receive a Compact Privilege a licensee must:

- Graduate from a CODA-approved dental school.
- Pass the American Board of Dental Examiners, (ADEX) licensure exam, or be in practice 5 years having passed a regional licensing examination.
- Pass the written National Dental Board Exam administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations
- Be free of disciplinary actions as defined by the Compact Commission



By 2022, all AADB member boards, and 48 out of 50 US States accepted or required the ADEX licensure examination as the gold standard for establishing readiness to practice. The ADEX exam, administered in every US dental school, is the only examination incorporating both hand-skills and cognitive assessment components to ensure potential licensees can perform dentistry without harm to the public. Commissioners evaluating these state requirements determined non-skills based examinations do not ensure competency to practice as defined by the majority of US jurisdictions and should not be permitted as a uniform licensure component.

Ask Us

how to update your planned legislation to better protect patients, your state and your board.