

Dental Hygiene Perspective:

Where the AADB Compact Excels and the CSG Falls Short

› Commission Representation

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Compact states “Participating State shall have and be limited to one (1) Commissioner selected by that Participating State’s State Licensing Authority or, if the State has more than one State Licensing Authority, selected collectively by the State Licensing Authorities⁽¹⁾.”

This is problematic because dental hygienists represent only 27% of membership on state boards of dentistry⁽²⁾, meaning the likelihood a dental hygienist’s perspective will be represented on the commission from any jurisdiction, is slim.

In contrast, the AADB Compact takes Dental Hygienists and split boards into account by ensuring two (2) representatives from each Participating State sit on the established Commission⁽³⁾.

Today, every hygienist can show they’re aptly prepared and well-trained to treat patients. That may change.



› Hand-skills exams are not required

The CSG Compact only requires a “clinical assessment” not a hand-skills examination⁽⁴⁾.

A lack of a clear definition of the components of such an assessment means that the dental hygienists of the future will not be required to perform any scaling exercise, periodontal probing measurement, or calculus detection to demonstrate competency.

AADB Compact requires a hand-skills examination as part of its uniform licensure requirements to protect the public⁽⁵⁾. Anyone who has been in practice 5 years or more and has successfully passed a Regional Board Examination (NERB/WREB/CDCA/CRDTS/SRTA) or equivalent state-administered psychomotor licensure examination prior to January 1, 2024, and meets additional outlined requirements, is eligible to participate⁽⁶⁾.

› Education Programs are undetermined.

The CSG Compact does not require graduation from a CODA-accredited program, rather permits other accrediting agencies recognized by the US Department of Education⁽⁷⁾.

To simplify applications with uniform requirements and ensure dental hygienist continue to provide the highest standards of care to patients, the AADB Compact requires licensees to have graduated from CODA-approved programs.

› Cost

The CSG Compact clearly states, “The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each Participating State and impose fees on Licensees of Participating States when a Compact Privilege is granted, to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the Commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each fiscal year for which sufficient revenue is not provided by other sources ⁽⁸⁾.”

That’s two different fees of an undetermined amount states will pay just to participate. Costs to obtain Compact Privilege are also undetermined at this time.

States and boards cannot incur additional financial burdens. The AADB understands most of these costs will likely filter to dental hygienists as they apply for licensure. The AADB Compact will not charge jurisdictions to become Member States.



A well-designed compact should equally bring all competent professionals licensure portability with fewer burdens.

Ask Us

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

1. Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact, Model Legislation §3A, §3D (2023); 2. 33rd Edition Composite Book, AADB (2023); 3. AADB Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact Legislation, §2C, 3B (2023); 4. Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact, Model Legislation §2D, §4A (2023); 5. AADB Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact Legislation, §2D, 2Q (2023); 6. AADB Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact Legislation, §2P, 2R (2023); 7. Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact, Model Legislation §3A (2023); 8. Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact, Model Legislation §7E (2023).

