



Process for Recognition of a New Dental Specialty

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BACKGROUND

Dental specialists play a significant role in protecting the public, nurturing the art and science of dentistry and improving quality of care through the provision of treatment where advanced knowledge and skills are needed to maintain or restore oral health.

Though the final authority to recognize any dental specialty rests with each provincial dental regulatory authority (DRA), the CDRAF has been requested to provide a nationally consistent process for the recognition of any new specialties based on a fair, objective, transparent, accountable and impartial process.

CDRAF's process for considering new dental specialties is represented in this document.

DEFINITIONS

Board – the CDRAF Board consisting of the registrars of each provincial DRA

CDAC – Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada

CDRAF – Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation

ED – the Executive Director of CDRAF

Sponsoring Organization – the individual or group proposing recognition of a new dental specialty

CRITERIA FOR THE RECOGNITION OF A NEW SPECIALTY

Any proposed specialty must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Sponsoring Organization:** The proposed specialty must originate from a sponsoring organization whose membership is reflective of the proposed specialty.
- 2. Body of Knowledge:** The proposed specialty must be a distinct and well-defined field which requires unique knowledge, skills and competencies beyond the scope of practice of a general dentist and which are also substantially distinct from any currently recognized dental specialty or combination of currently recognized dental specialties.
- 3. Need and Value:** A proposed specialty must directly benefit and improve oral health care. Substantial public need and demand for the services of the proposed specialty must be identified. This need cannot be adequately met by general practitioners or specialists in currently recognized specialties.

- 4. Advanced Education:** University based education programs, at least two years beyond pre-doctoral curriculum as defined by CDAC and consistent with existing specialty programs, must exist to provide the knowledge, skills and competencies required for practice of the proposed specialty.

PROCESS FOR RECOGNITION OF A NEW SPECIALTY

The five-step process for the consideration of a proposed new specialty will be available on the CDRAF website and is as follows:

STEP 1

The sponsoring organization must submit an initial application for specialty recognition along with the initial application fee to CDRAF. The initial application will be reviewed by the ED, the Chair and Vice Chair of CDRAF for completeness. If the initial application is determined to be complete and that the proposed specialty is generally aligned with the “Criteria for the Recognition of a New Specialty”, the sponsoring organization will be informed and may submit the final application along with the final application fee. If the initial application is determined to be incomplete or not aligned, the application will be returned with comments and direction to remediate the identified insufficiencies prior to submitting a final application.

STEP 2

Final applications will be circulated widely for public comment, which at a minimum will include posting on the CDRAF website for any organization, group or individual to provide comment on how the proposed specialty meets the “Criteria for the Recognition of a New Specialty”. Such organizations to include, but not limited to, Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC), National Dental Examining Board (NDEB), Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry (ACFD) and Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC) will be asked to provide comment and provide any implications on their respective processes. Further, Federal, Provincial and Territorial Departments will be asked to review applications.

STEP 3

Once all comments are received, the ED will forward the comments to the Sponsoring Organization. The Sponsoring Organization will be given a deadline to provide replies to the submitted comments.

STEP 4

The final application, the submitted comments and the Sponsoring Organization's replies to the comments will be provided to the Board 1 month in advance of a scheduled in person meeting.

STEP 5

The Board will consider the final application, the submitted comments and the Sponsoring Organization's replies to the comments and determine whether the proposed specialty meets the "Criteria for the Recognition of a New Specialty".

If the motion to recognize a new specialty is approved, the result will be communicated to each DRA who will then consider whether to recognize the new specialty in their province.

If the motion to recognize a new specialty is not approved, the result will be communicated to the sponsoring organization along with the criteria for the recognition of a new specialty that the Board determined had not been met by the proposed specialty.

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