

ABGD Standardized Treatment Planning Examination

Preparation Guidelines

NEW FORMAT Spring 2016

Introduction:

The American Board of General Dentistry is introducing a new format for the 2016 Standardized Case Diagnosis, Treatment Planning and Rationale Track of the Case Treatment Planning and Rationale Section of the Oral Examination. This new, one hour and forty-five minute format replaces the previous four hour examination experience and eliminates the need to submit a detailed, written 'Findings List/Treatment Plan' and 'Justification/Rationale' to the Board. Instituting this new format does not, however, significantly change how a candidate prepares to successfully challenge this section. A thorough knowledge of the phased treatment planning approach is expected and the correct identification of findings in support of accurate diagnoses continues to be a requirement for successful completion of the oral examination. By using the new format, this section of the oral examination objectively assesses a candidate's ability to critically evaluate a standardized multidisciplinary case, make appropriate diagnoses, develop a reasonable treatment plan and defend that plan with appropriate justification and rationale.

Please note that the Dual Track option will continue to be available for candidates wishing to pursue completion of the Case Treatment Planning and Rationale Section until 2020. Candidates may elect to submit their own cases as outlined in the ABGD Rules and Procedures under the Case Presentation Track or, they may elect to challenge the Standardized Case Diagnosis, Treatment Planning and Rationale Track using the new format as outlined here.

New Format Overview:

This new format comprises two consecutive sessions: a case review section (one hour) and an oral examination (forty-five minutes) section. Each section will be challenged individually with only one candidate allowed to review or test during any given examination period. During the case review section, candidates will be presented with a reasonably challenging standardized multidisciplinary case from which they must identify major findings, make appropriate diagnoses and develop a treatment plan by phase. No formal, written documentation is required during this

section, but scripted notes made during this one hour review are highly encouraged to assist you in preparation for the oral exam.

During the oral examination section candidates must be prepared to answer questions about the case and to discuss and justify their findings, diagnoses and treatment decisions. For both sections candidates will have access to all diagnostic aids regarding the patient's history, dental examination findings, casts and radiographs from which to develop and discuss their treatment plan and rationale.

Case Review Section:

The purpose of this first section (one hour) is to review the diagnostic aids, make appropriate diagnoses and formulate a reasonable treatment plan based on case review findings. Each candidate will have one hour to review the standardized multidisciplinary case and will have access to the following *diagnostic aids*:

- Chief complaint
- Medical and dental history
- Complete dental examination findings
- Full mouth and panoramic digital radiographs
- Extraoral and intraoral photographic series
- Periodontal charting
- Unmounted diagnostic casts
- Articulated casts mounted in CO
- Lined legal (8.5x11 inch) paper
- Pens/Pencils with sharpener
- Surveyor and table with all rods, gauges, leads, etc.

The candidate will provide:

- Colored pencils (red, blue and brown) for drawing on Lab order

Though no formal, written documentation is required during this section, the candidate is highly encouraged to make notes and develop their original thoughts regarding the case. The candidate should use this time to prepare to answer questions (during the oral examination section) that address the following:

- Discipline-Specific diagnoses supported by findings
- Medical considerations
- Treatment plan and rationale by phase
 - Emergency Phase
 - Systemic Phase (e.g., medical considerations, treatment modifications)
 - Preparatory Phase (e.g., caries/periodontal disease control, restorative, endodontic, oral surgery)
 - Reevaluation Phase (e.g., compliance, disease control)
 - Corrective-Restorative Phase (e.g., prosthodontics)
 - Maintenance phase
- Prognosis
- Justification/Rationale for treatment decisions

PLEASE NOTE: The examination will be administered in a proctored environment. At the end of the examination period, you must return all testing materials and notes to the proctors. No candidate is permitted to remove any testing materials or copies thereof from the proctored environment. Anyone found doing so will receive a failing grade and may not be permitted to retake the exam.

Oral Examination Section:

The purpose of this forty-five minute oral examination section is to objectively evaluate a candidate's ability to apply the phased treatment planning approach and to provide justification for their diagnoses and treatment planning decisions. Questions will be posed to the candidate using an examination format similar to the Discipline-Specific Oral Examinations. Candidates are expected to identify significant findings or problems, make appropriate diagnostic decisions, develop a reasonable phased treatment plan for this case, and properly justify their decisions.

Important points to consider:

1. As with the previous examination format, significant preparation is required prior to the examination in order to effectively implement the phased treatment planning approach and to support the major diagnoses with correctly identified findings. The current study aids available on the ABGD website continue to be useful guides to prepare for this section.
2. All diagnostic aids will be available to the candidate as a reference during both sections of the oral examination. An examination proctor will also be

available during the case review section to assist with the administration of the case review and provide any guidance a candidate may require.

3. During the oral examination, topics of interest may include:
 - a. Phased treatment planning approach and sequencing of treatment
 - b. Correct major diagnoses supported by discipline-specific findings
 - c. Patient's chief complaint
 - d. Identifying key abutment teeth
 - e. Occlusal considerations
 - f. Diagnostic techniques
 - g. Materials selection
 - h. Fixed, removable and implant supported appliance design
 - i. Medical management and medication considerations
 - j. Acceptable treatment planning decisions
 - k. Function, esthetics and space maintenance factors
 - l. Disease control
 - m. Prognosis
4. This examination is administered using two consecutive sessions: a case review and an oral examination. Only one, single candidate will review and test during any given examination period. This differs from the four hour group environment used during the old testing format by allowing for individual candidate evaluations using an oral examination format similar to the Discipline-Specific Oral Examinations. In addition, it does not require submission of a detailed, written 'Findings List/ Treatment Plan' and 'Justification/Rationale' document.

PLEASE NOTE: The examination will be administered in a proctored environment. At the end of the examination period, you must return all testing materials and notes to the proctors. No candidate is permitted to remove any testing materials or copies thereof from the proctored environment. Anyone found doing so will receive a failing grade and may not be permitted to retake the exam.