AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Withholding/Cancellation of Scores Policy

Testing is conducted in accordance with the Procedures for the Enforcement of the Ethical Obligations of Diplomates and Candidates. In accordance with the Procedures, the ABPD reserves the right to take appropriate actions in the event of allegations of identification discrepancies (e.g., situations where the test taker's identification documents cannot be verified or where ABPD has evidence that the candidate registered for the test had someone else take or attempt to take the test) or other misconduct (to include but not limited to having someone other than the registered test taker take the test; obtaining test questions or answers before or during the test; or disclosing any test question or answer before, during, or after the test). As set forth in the Procedures, the Ethics Committee of the ABPD may impose a variety of sanctions for misconduct or identification discrepancies by a test taker, including excluding the candidate from further participation in the exam process, imposing conditions on the candidate's examination process, precluding the candidate from reapplying for the examination process or imposing conditions on the candidate's right to reapply, issuing a letter of warning, reprimand, suspension, and revocation.

A candidate's scores may be withheld pending disposition of an allegation of ethical violation or other misconduct. When, for any of the above reasons, ABPD cancels a test score that has already been reported, ABPD will notify the score recipient(s) that the score has been canceled. Further action may be taken, including denying, revoking and/or suspending ABPD certification.

Testing Irregularities

"Testing irregularities" refers to problems with the administration of a test. Testing irregularities may result from actions of test takers, test center administrators, ABPD or natural or man-made causes. When testing irregularities occur, they may affect an individual or groups of test takers. Such problems include, without limitation, administrative errors (such as improper timing, improper seating, improper test forms, and defective equipment); improper access to test content; and other disruptions of test administrations (such as natural disasters or other emergencies). When testing irregularities occur, ABPD may decline to score the test or cancel the test score. If misconduct against a candidate is alleged, the candidate will be referred to the Ethics Committee as set forth above. When, in ABPD's sole judgment, it is appropriate to do so, test takers will be given the opportunity to take the test again as soon as possible without charge.

Invalid Scores

ABPD may also cancel scores if, in its judgment, there is substantial evidence that they are invalid for any other reason. Substantial evidence means evidence that is sufficient to persuade a reasonable person. The substantial evidence standard is lower (i.e., requires less proof) than beyond a reasonable doubt and clear and convincing and preponderance of the evidence standards. Evidence of invalid scores may include, without limitation, unusual answers, and inconsistent performance on the test. If misconduct against a candidate is alleged, the candidate will be referred to the Ethics Committee as set forth above. If no misconduct is alleged or if the findings of the Ethics Committee do not substantiate any claim of misconduct, the test taker will be given the opportunity to take the test again as soon as possible without charge.