

Report on Completion of Phase 1 and Proposed Phase 2

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The EPA framework has been adopted widely across healthcare education offering a promising enhancement of competency-based education in dentistry with its implementation. The ADEA Compendium of Clinical Competency Assessment Workgroup was developed to explore alternate pathways to assessment and initial licensure, aiming to move away from a single encounter procedure-based examination on patients as the sole demonstration of clinical competency. The Compendium identified EPAs as a potential alternative to traditional assessment models for determining readiness for practice. Since May 2023, the current ADEA-Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) Workgroup has been charged with developing and facilitating implementation of EPAs for dental education.

Phase 1 of this initiative focused on the development and vetting of EPAs suitable for dental education. The culmination of Phase 1 was the publication of a vetted set of EPAs in the *Journal of Dental Education* (available in Appendix A). This list described 11 core EPAs, their specifications, and a glossary of key terms. This initial phase generated significant interest and enthusiasm within the dental community, paving the way for further development of EPAs. Below is a detailed account of the steps that the Workgroup followed to develop and vet the EPAs.

Phase 1: Development of EPAs process description:

1. Established a core, diverse Workgroup of 8 members representing multiple institutions: Phil Marucha and Rocio Quinonez (Co Chairs); Theodora Danciu, Vidya Ramaswamy, Erinne Kennedy, Laura Romito, Denice Stewart, and Gul Gulsun.
2. This team met regularly for 15 months to establish the process and goals for this project as well as develop the outcome: **Completing a published list of EPAs for dental education.**
3. The process for the Workgroup to develop the draft list of EPAs included the following:
 - a) Literature review including publications in multiple health professions and review of ten Cate's International EPA course materials.
(<https://www.umcutrecht.nl/en/online-international-courses-ins-and-outs-of-entrustable-professional-activities>)
 - b) Developing a preliminary draft list of 11 dental EPAs based on the following guidelines:
 - Adhering to recommendations for EPA development
 - Focusing on predoctoral education

- Allowing for emerging trends
 - Aligning with other health professions
- c) Utilization of the Delphi process to achieve consensus on this initial list and revise it based on feedback from a diverse group of clinicians and dental educators.
- For each round of the Delphi process, members assessed each EPA according to the following attributes of quality and structure as specified in the EQual rubric (Taylor et al., 2017. doi: 10.1097/ACM.0000000000001908. PMID: 29065031.):
 - Clearly defined beginning and end
 - Independently executable to achieve a defined clinical outcome
 - Specific and focused
 - Observable in process
 - Measurable in outcome
 - Clearly distinguished from other EPAs in the framework
- d) A Qualtrics survey using the above criteria was administered to gather feedback from academic deans at the ADEA Fall Meeting, 2023.
- e) After further revision, additional feedback was gathered from six healthcare professionals outside dental education.
- f) The drafted list of EPAs mapped to the CODA standards and the list of ADEA competencies for the general dentist for validation.
- g) The scope for each EPA was elaborated.
- h) An extensive glossary to support the EPA framework was developed and made available for use.
- i) The ADEA Compendium EPA Workgroup members are collaborating with the ADEA Council of Faculty to develop the domains of competence based on the initial work done by the Compendium.
4. As a part of the vetting process and to disseminate the newly developed EPAs, the ADEA Compendium EPA work has been presented and is scheduled to be presented at numerous venues.

Date	Location	Meeting Name	Title
1/18/2023	Washington, DC	Joint Council Administrative Board meeting 2023	Graduates' Readiness to Practice: Moving from Assessment to Entrustment. Dr. Carol Anne Murdoch-Kinch
3/12/2023	Portland, OR	2023 ADEA Annual Session	From "Assessment" to "Entrustment" to "Readiness for Practice": The ADEA Compendium – EPA Framework for Assessment of Competency, Drs. Phillip Marucha, Theodora Danciu, Rocio Quinonez
5/22/2023	Orlando, FL	American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Predoctoral Meeting	Entrustable Professional Activities for Pediatric Dentistry: Predoctoral Education

			Drs. Miguel Simancas-Palleres, Rocio Quinonez
6/30/2023	Virtual	ADEA Webinar video	Recording of the ADEA Annual Session Presentation for ADEA eLearn Portal Drs. Theodora Danciu, Phillip Marucha, Rocio Quinonez
9/23/2023	Austin, TX	American Academy of Periodontology Predoctoral Meeting	AAP Predoc Workshop: EPAs in Dentistry Dr. Phil Marucha
10/ 26/2023	Pittsburg, PA	ADEA Fall meetings	ADEA Compendium EPA Workgroup
2/16/2024	Virtual	ADEA Dean's Town Hall	Update on the ADEA Compendium EPA Workgroup. Drs. Rocio Quinonez, Phillip Marucha
3/9/2024	New Orleans, LA	2024 ADEA Annual Session	A roadmap to EPAs and their assessment in dental education: Results from the ADEA Workgroup, EPA Workgroup
3/10/2024	New Orleans, LA	2024 ADEA Annual Session	2024 ADEA Compendium EPA Workshop, EPA Workgroup
6/6/2024	Chicago, IL	CDEL meeting	Development of ADEA EPAs for the New General Dentist, EPA workgroup
8/15/2024	Austin, TX	American Academy of Endodontics Predoctoral Educators meeting	Entrustable Professional Activities for Pre-doctoral Endodontic Education, Dr. Erinne Kennedy
9/8/2024	Leaven, Belgium	ADEE Meeting	An Update on EPAs in the United States: The American Dental Education Association Compendium, EPA Workgroup
10/25/2024	Coronado, CA	ADEA Fall meeting	Mapping Success: Aligning EPAs with Dental Competencies (Joint Session with the Section on Academic Affairs Academic Deans) Facilitator: Drs. Theodora Danciu, , Phillip Marucha, and Laura Romito
10/18/2025	Toronto, Canada	2025 American Academy of Periodontology	Are We Graduating Truly Competent Professionals? Drs Yota Stathopoulou, Rocio Quinonez
3/9/2025	National Harbor, MD	2025 ADEA Annual Session	Transforming Dental Education with Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs): Envisioning the future of dental education. Dr Olle ten Cate and EPA Workgroup
3/10/2025	National Harbor, MD	2025 ADEA Annual Session	Coffee with Olle ten Cate and the ADEA-EPA Workgroup
3/11/2025	National Harbor,	2025 ADEA Annual Session	ADEA Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) Information Forum

	MD		ADEA EPA Workgroup
3/9/2025	National Harbor, MD	2025 ADEA Annual Session	Empowering Oral Health Professions Education Using Entrustable Professional Activities: The University of North Carolina Experience. Dr. Quinonez
10/22/2025	Online	ADEA Webinar	Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs): A Practical Framework for Competency-Based Dental Education

These efforts and those proposed in Phase 2 described below align directly with ADEA Strategic Direction Goal 3 – to re-envision the model for oral health education and objectives 3.1 and 3.2 within that goal:

- 3.1. Drive innovation, scholarship and change in oral health education.
- 3.2. Support members in preparing future-ready graduates committed to providing access to high-quality oral health care.

Phase 2: Recommended Implementation Plan

Our Workgroup of committed educators met in June 2024 to outline an implementation plan as Phase 2 of the project to further elaborate EPAs in dental education. As part of this plan, we are excited to broaden the team to include individuals (ADEA members and staff) with specific talents/interests in diverse areas to assist in the implementation phase. Thus, we will engage members of the ADEA community to become partners in this work and participate in the workgroups.

The overarching goal of Phase 2 focuses on establishing the infrastructure necessary for dental schools to apply the EPA design to their educational programs and further disseminate this paradigm across dental educators.

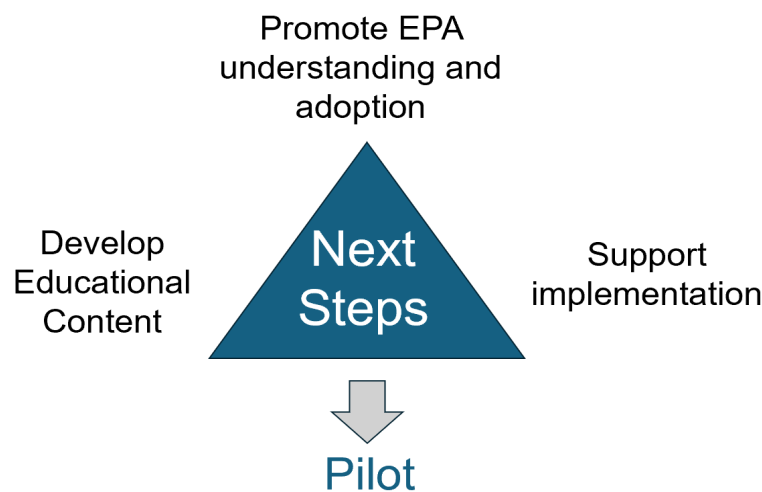


Figure 1: Phase 2 goals for implementation of EPAs in dental education

1. Promote EPA Understanding and Adoption

1.1. Communication Plan: Engage and obtain input from various constituents.

- Year 1:
 - Establishing a web presence to house a repository of resources for schools to utilize as they consider EPA implementation.
 - Branding the ADEA-EPA work.
 - Establishing a marketing plan to disseminate resources and information to the ADEA membership and various constituents (presentations, articles, etc.).
- Year 2-3: Expand the communication plan outlined in Year 1.