

An Evaluation of the
Western Region Examining Board
Dental Hygiene Examination

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VII: SUMMATIVE EVALUATION

The definition of dental hygiene practice, the argument supporting the valid interpretation of test scores, the claim for validity, and the evidence presented in this document all points to a very high quality test. Several factors contribute to this evaluation.

1. WREB has a long and consistent history of planning, developing clinical performance tests of high quality and validating test score interpretations and uses. This tradition continues. WREB's annual reports, technical reports, documentation, evaluation reports like this one contribute to a growing reputation in the United States for high quality examinations. The greatest strength is the overall commitment to excellence that permeates all aspects of the testing program. This includes the Board of Directors, the Examination Review Committee, the Dental Hygiene Examination Committee, and the staff who plan and administer the test and the participation of states, dental hygiene schools, and other constituencies that support such testing programs, such as the American Association of Dental Examiners, and the guidelines they recently published with WREB's help and support. The *Dental Hygiene Examination* Subcommittee operates effectively. They are advocates for improvement, and their minutes and recommendations give evidence of this commitment.
2. Ample evidence is presented for a systematic growth in the validity evidence needed for validation. Threats to validity are few and minor in scope. Previous reports also discuss the abundance of evidence favoring valid interpretations and uses of test scores (Haladyna, 1998; 2005).
3. The *Standards* (AERA, et al., 1999) provides many guidelines for clinical performance testing programs like WREB's to follow. The opinion of this evaluator is that these guidelines are followed, and documentation has been provided to support this opinion.

Thus, considerable validity evidence exists that supports WREB's participating states using these test scores for making pass/fail decisions for licensure in dental hygiene.