

American Dental Association
Technical Report No. 1090

Adoption and Augmentation of the Quality Matters Design Standards for Online and Blended Courses

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AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 1090 FOR ADOPTION AND AUGMENTATION OF THE QUALITY MATTERS DESIGN STANDARDS FOR ONLINE AND BLENDED COURSES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(This Executive Summary does not form a part of American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1090 for Adoption and Augmentation of the Quality Matters Design Standards for Online and Blended Courses).

Written to address the need for standardized criteria for quality assurance of on-line higher education and continuing education courses for dental students and dentists, ADA Technical Report No. 1090 describes the use of the Quality Matters (QM) rubrics to improve course design, course improvement and course reviews.

Quality Matters is an international organization developed through collaboration and research with the goal of improving the design of online and blended courses. Its quality assurance processes are derived from the QM Rubrics, which have been developed and updated through research, collaboration with industry, and review from users. QM Rubrics are designed to facilitate the best student learning possible in online or blended courses through quality course design. The QM Rubrics are generally implemented through two types of course reviews, either official (recognized by Quality Matters) or unofficial (not recognized by Quality Matters).

Two QM Rubrics most applicable to dental education, Higher Education and Professional and Continuing Education, are highlighted in this technical report. The report also details the methods of implementing the QM Rubrics through various subscription options.

Other dental-specific criteria that must be met in electronic dental education are included as well, including patient privacy and confidentiality, quality and resolution requirements for different types of educational media utilized, and evidence-based dentistry.

ADA Technical Report No. 1090 will assist dental educators, dental schools, companies and associations in designing, improving and evaluating online and blended education courses for dentistry.

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The Council on Dental Practice of the American Dental Association has approved American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1090 for Adoption and Augmentation of the Quality Matters Design Standards for Online and Blended Courses. Working Groups of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI) formulate this and other specifications and technical reports for the application of information technology and other electronic technologies to dentistry's clinical and administrative operations. The ADA SCDI has representation from appropriate interests in the United States in the standardization of information technology and other electronic technologies used in dental practice. The ADA SCDI confirmed approval of ADA Technical Report No. 1090 on July 12, 2016.

This report was prepared by ADA SCDI WG 13.1, Educational Software Used in Electronic Media at the request of Gary Guest, chairman. SCDI Subcommittee on Knowledge Management. The SCDI thanks the working group members and the organizations with which they were affiliated at the time the report was developed:

Heiko Spallek (chairman), University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, PA;
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FOREWORD

(This Foreword does not form a part of American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1090 for Adoption and Augmentation of the Quality Matters Design Standards for Online and Blended Courses).

In 1992, there was interest in the standardization of clinical information systems related to electronic technology in the dental environment. After evaluating current informatics activities, a Task Group of the ANSI Accredited Standards Committee MD156 (ASC MD156) was created by the ADA to initiate the development of technical reports, guidelines, and standards on electronic technologies used in dental practice. In 1999, the ADA established the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI). The ADA SCDI is currently the group that reviews and approves proposed American National Standards (ANSI approved) and technical reports developed by the standards committee's working groups. The ADA became an ANSI accredited standards organization in 2000.

The scope of the ADA SCDI is:

The ADA SCDI shall develop informatics standards, technical specifications, technical reports and guidelines and interact with other entities involved in the development of health informatics standards aimed at implementation across the dental profession.

This document may provide information regarding legal implications of the security and privacy regulations. This document does not provide legal advice, and covered entities must work with their legal staff to address appropriate requirements. This document may serve as a tool to expedite an understanding of the necessary legal actions needed to address requirements, as well as federal and state legislation, as security and privacy has an impact on many aspects of dentistry.

Proposed American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1090 for Adoption and Augmentation of the Quality Matters Design Standards for Online and Blended Courses cancels and replaces ANSI/ADA Standard No. 1001-2002, *Design of Educational Software*.

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SCOPE

The goal of ADA Technical Report No. 1090 for Adoption and Augmentation of the Quality Matters Design Standards for Online and Blended Courses is to describe the adoption of two Quality Matters Rubrics (Higher Education and Continuing & Professional Education) as an updated standard for online and blended dental education courses for students and professionals.

INTRODUCTION

An updated standard is necessary because technology has tremendously advanced since ANSI/ADA Standard No. 1001, *Guidelines for the Design of Education Software* was adopted in 2002. At the same time, appreciation for the old standard must be given, because it was a comprehensive, well-written standard for its time. The decision to establish Quality Matters as a new standard to promote high quality online and blended dental education was made only after thoughtful comparison of the two standards demonstrated that Quality Matters encompasses many of the same ideals as the old standard. Quality Matters provides several additional benefits beyond the old standard including different rubrics for higher education courses and continuing education courses and regular improvement to the rubrics based on current studies and research.

After reading this report, universities, professors, private companies, dental associations, and private dentists should be able to accomplish the following objectives.

- Understand Quality Matters and how it relates to course design for online and blended dental education for students and continuing professional education.
- Understand how to best subscribe to Quality Matters according to their respective institutional or individual jobs and goals.
- Understand the different ways that Quality Matters can be utilized, including course design, course improvement, and course reviews.
- Understand other dental-specific criteria that must be met in electronic education beyond the scope of Quality Matters.

REFERENCED STANDARDS

The following documents contain provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this document.

American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1043. *Use of Electronic Resources to Access Oral Healthcare Information*

(ADA publications, technical reports and specifications are available from the American Dental Association, Department of Standards Administration, 211 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611 or www.adacatalog.org).

QUALITY MATTERS DESCRIPTION

Quality Matters is an international organization developed through collaboration and research with the goal of improving the design of online and blended courses. Quality Matters has been widely adopted with over 1000 member organizations spanning 48 states and six countries. Quality Matters' quality assurance processes are derived from the Quality Matters Rubrics, which have been developed and updated through research, collaboration with industry, and review from users.¹

Quality Matters Rubrics

The Quality Matters Rubrics are designed to facilitate the best student learning possible in online or blended courses through quality course design. There are two Quality Matters Rubrics applicable to online and blended dental education: Higher Education and Continuing & Professional Education. With 43 Specific Review Standards, each Rubric is broken down into sections of like Standards, and each Standard has a full Annotation that describes it in complete detail and provides examples of