



AAAI-D Recognition Standards

for Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry

AAAI-D RS-1A:2026

Version 1.0

American Academy of Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry

Human Intelligence First. Patients First.

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Section 1 - About the Recognition Program

Purpose

The AAAI-D Recognition Program is founded on a simple principle: Artificial intelligence should enhance—not replace—human intelligence, and every application of AI should ultimately serve the best interests of patients. Human intelligence remains essential for professional judgment, ethical decision-making, and accountability. Artificial intelligence is a tool to support clinicians, educators, researchers, and organizations—not a substitute for their responsibility to provide safe, ethical, evidence-informed, and patient-centered care.

The American Academy of Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry (AAAI-D) established the Recognition Standards for Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry to advance the safe, ethical, evidence-informed, and responsible adoption of artificial intelligence throughout the global dental profession.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to transform clinical care, education, research, administration, and healthcare operations. Realizing these opportunities, however, requires more than implementing new technologies. Responsible AI adoption depends upon effective leadership, sound governance, workforce preparedness, thoughtful implementation, continuous performance evaluation, and an enduring commitment to organizational excellence.

The AAAI-D Recognition Program provides organizations with a structured framework for assessing their AI readiness, guiding responsible implementation, measuring organizational maturity, and achieving independent recognition for demonstrated excellence in the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence.

The Recognition Standards are intended to serve as both a recognition framework and a roadmap for continuous improvement. Rather than prescribing a single approach to AI implementation, they provide flexible, evidence-informed standards that organizations of varying sizes, missions, and practice settings can use to strengthen governance, support their workforce, improve organizational performance, and maintain a steadfast commitment to Human Intelligence First. Patients First.

Scope

The Recognition Standards are designed to be applicable across a broad range of dental organizations.

Recognition pathways are available for:

- Private Dental Practices (Solo and Group Practices)
- Multi-Site Practices and Dental Service Organizations (DSOs)
- Healthcare Organizations
- Academic Institutions

Although these organizations differ in size, mission, governance, and operational complexity, all applicants are evaluated using the same Recognition Standards.

Pathway-specific guidance is provided to assist applicants in demonstrating how the standards may be satisfied within their respective organizational settings.

Guiding Principles

The Recognition Program is founded upon the following principles.

Leadership

Responsible AI implementation begins with organizational leadership.

Patient-Centered Care

Artificial intelligence should enhance patient care while preserving professional judgment, accountability, and patient trust.

Evidence-Informed Decision Making

Implementation decisions should be guided by scientific evidence, organizational needs, and responsible governance rather than technology alone.

Responsible Governance

Organizations should establish oversight processes appropriate to their size, mission, and level of AI implementation.

Continuous Improvement

Responsible AI implementation requires ongoing evaluation, organizational learning, and continuous refinement.

Voluntary Participation

Participation in the AAAI-D Recognition Program is voluntary.

Recognition by AAAI-D does not constitute accreditation, certification, regulatory approval, or endorsement of any specific artificial intelligence product, vendor, or commercial technology.

Recognition signifies that an organization has demonstrated achievement consistent with the applicable AAAI-D Recognition Standards at the level awarded by the Academy.

Recognition Philosophy

The Academy recognizes that organizations vary considerably in their size, resources, digital infrastructure, and stage of AI adoption.

Accordingly, the Recognition Program is designed to recognize organizational progress rather than organizational perfection.

Organizations are encouraged to pursue recognition at the level that most accurately reflects their current stage of development.

Applicants may apply directly for any AI Adoption Level.

Recognition Levels are cumulative. Organizations applying for a higher level should demonstrate that they have satisfied the requirements of the requested level as well as the requirements of all preceding levels.

If an applicant does not fully satisfy the requested level, the Academy may award recognition at the highest level for which all applicable requirements have been demonstrated.

This approach recognizes meaningful achievement while providing organizations with a clear pathway for continued advancement.

Recognition Framework

The AAAI-D Recognition Program is built upon three integrated components.

AI Adoption Levels

The AI Adoption Levels define an organization's stage of maturity in the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence.

Recognition Standards

The Recognition Standards establish the criteria used to evaluate organizations seeking recognition.

Recognition Pathways

Recognition Pathways provide organization-specific guidance that illustrates how the Recognition Standards may be demonstrated within different practice environments.

Together, these three components provide a consistent yet flexible framework that supports responsible AI adoption across the dental profession.

Recognition is intended to acknowledge responsible organizational stewardship of artificial intelligence—not simply the adoption of technology.

Recognition Pathways

The Academy currently offers four recognition pathways:

- Private Dental Practices (Solo and Group Practices)
- Multi-Site Practices and Dental Service Organizations (DSOs)
- Healthcare Organizations
- Academic Institutions

Each pathway uses the same AI Adoption Levels and Recognition Standards while providing examples and guidance tailored to the applicant's organizational setting.

Recognition Levels

Organizations are recognized according to five progressive AI Adoption Levels that reflect increasing organizational maturity in the responsible implementation of artificial intelligence.

The five AI Adoption Levels are:

Level 1 - Aware

Level 2 - Exploring

Level 3 - Adopting

Level 4 - Integrating

Level 5 - Leading

Detailed descriptions of each level are provided in Section 2.

Looking Ahead

The AAAI-D Recognition Standards are intended to evolve alongside advances in artificial intelligence, emerging evidence, professional best practices, and the changing needs of the dental profession.

The Academy will periodically review and update these standards to ensure they remain relevant, practical, and evidence-informed while continuing to promote the responsible integration of artificial intelligence throughout dentistry.

Section 2 - AI Adoption Levels

Overview

The AAAI-D AI Adoption Levels provide a structured framework for recognizing an organization’s maturity in the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence.

The five AI Adoption Levels are progressive and cumulative. Each level represents an increasingly advanced stage of organizational development in leadership, governance, workforce preparedness, implementation, performance measurement, and continuous improvement.

Organizations may apply directly for any recognition level. Applicants are not required to obtain recognition at preceding levels before applying for a higher level. However, because the AI Adoption Levels are cumulative, organizations applying for a higher level should demonstrate that they have met the requirements associated with the requested level as well as those associated with all preceding levels.

Recognition reflects organizational maturity rather than the number or sophistication of AI technologies deployed.

The Five AI Adoption Levels

AI Adoption Level	Organizational Descriptor
Level 1 – Aware	Organizational Awareness
Level 2 – Exploring	Organizational Readiness
Level 3 – Adopting	Operational Implementation
Level 4 – Integrating	Organizational Integration
Level 5 – Leading	Organizational Excellence

Level 1 - Aware

Organizational Descriptor

Organizational Awareness

Definition

The organization recognizes that artificial intelligence is becoming an important component of modern dentistry and has initiated leadership awareness regarding its potential opportunities, limitations, and implications.

Formal implementation has not yet begun. The organization’s primary focus is understanding the strategic relevance of artificial intelligence and establishing a foundation for future planning.

Primary Focus

Building organizational awareness and leadership engagement.

Level 2 - Exploring

Organizational Descriptor

Organizational Readiness

Definition

The organization is actively evaluating opportunities for artificial intelligence and preparing for responsible implementation.

Leadership has initiated planning activities, identified potential areas of application, and begun evaluating organizational readiness, workforce needs, infrastructure, governance, and resource requirements.

Implementation may include limited pilot activities but remains primarily exploratory.

Primary Focus

Preparing the organization for responsible AI implementation.

Level 3 - Adopting

Organizational Descriptor

Operational Implementation

Definition

The organization has implemented one or more artificial intelligence applications within routine organizational workflows.

Implementation is supported by defined organizational oversight, appropriate workforce education, documented processes, and continued human supervision of AI-assisted activities.

Artificial intelligence has progressed beyond exploration and has become an operational capability within one or more organizational functions.

Primary Focus

Achieving safe, structured, and responsible implementation.

Level 4 - Integrating

Organizational Descriptor

Organizational Integration

Definition

Artificial intelligence has been integrated across multiple organizational functions through coordinated leadership, governance, workforce development, and performance measurement.

AI implementation is supported by standardized organizational processes and contributes to clinical, educational, research, administrative, or operational objectives, as appropriate for the organization's mission.

Primary Focus

Achieving coordinated organization-wide integration.

Level 5 - Leading

Organizational Descriptor

Organizational Excellence

Definition

Artificial intelligence is embedded within the organization's long-term strategy and culture of continuous improvement.

Leadership continuously evaluates and refines AI implementation through performance measurement, organizational learning, innovation, and evidence-informed decision-making.

Organizations recognized at this level contribute to advancing the responsible use of artificial intelligence through leadership, education, research, quality improvement, collaboration, or other activities that benefit the profession.

Primary Focus

Demonstrating sustained organizational excellence while advancing the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence throughout dentistry.

Applying for Recognition

Organizations may apply directly for any AI Adoption Level.

Applicants seeking recognition at a particular level should demonstrate that they have met the requirements associated with the requested level as well as all preceding levels.

If an applicant does not fully satisfy the requirements for the requested level, AAAI-D may award recognition at the highest level for which all applicable requirements have been demonstrated.

Recognition Philosophy

The AAAI-D Recognition Program is designed to recognize organizational progress rather than organizational perfection.

Advancement through the AI Adoption Levels reflects balanced organizational development in leadership, governance, workforce preparedness, responsible implementation, performance measurement, and continuous improvement.

The Academy believes that responsible AI adoption is achieved not by implementing the greatest number of technologies, but by integrating artificial intelligence in a manner that is evidence-informed, ethically governed, patient-centered, and aligned with the organization's mission.

Organizations demonstrating strong leadership, responsible governance, workforce preparedness, and continuous improvement may achieve higher levels of recognition than organizations with greater technological implementation but less developed organizational practices.

The Academy believes that responsible implementation is achieved through balanced organizational development, where technology, leadership, governance, education, and quality improvement evolve together.

Responsible AI adoption is not defined by how much AI an organization uses. It is defined by how responsibly it is governed.

Section 3 – Recognition Domains

Overview

The AAAI-D Recognition Standards evaluate organizations across five Recognition Domains that represent the core organizational capabilities required for the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence in dentistry.

The Recognition Domains establish a common framework for evaluating organizations regardless of their size, mission, or organizational setting. While examples of acceptable evidence may differ among private practices, dental service organizations, healthcare organizations, and academic institutions, the Recognition Domains remain consistent across all Recognition Pathways.

Together, the Recognition Domains provide a structured approach for assessing organizational readiness, implementation, and continuous improvement in the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

Organization of the Recognition Domains

Each Recognition Domain consists of one or more Essential Criteria.

Each Essential Criterion identifies:

The expectation established by the Academy.

The minimum AI Adoption Level at which the criterion first applies.

Examples of acceptable evidence that may be submitted in support of an application.

The examples of acceptable evidence provided throughout these Recognition Standards are illustrative rather than prescriptive. Organizations are not expected to submit identical documentation. Applicants may submit alternative evidence that clearly demonstrates fulfillment of the applicable Essential Criterion.

Progressive Recognition

The AI Adoption Levels are cumulative.

Essential Criteria introduced at lower AI Adoption Levels remain applicable at all higher levels unless otherwise specified.

Organizations applying for higher levels of recognition should therefore demonstrate that they have met the Essential Criteria associated with the requested AI Adoption Level as well as those associated with all preceding levels.

Recognition Domains

Domain 1 - Leadership & Strategic Planning

Organizations demonstrate leadership commitment to the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence through strategic planning, organizational oversight, and appropriate resource allocation.

Domain 2 – Governance, Risk Management & Ethical Oversight

Organizations establish governance processes that support the safe, ethical, secure, transparent, and accountable implementation of artificial intelligence.

Domain 3 – Workforce Education & Competency

Organizations prepare their workforce to responsibly implement, evaluate, and utilize artificial intelligence through education, training, and competency development.

Domain 4 - Responsible AI Implementation

Organizations implement artificial intelligence using structured processes that support patient care, clinical excellence, operational effectiveness, appropriate human oversight, and responsible organizational practices.

Domain 5 - Performance Measurement, Continuous Improvement & Innovation

Organizations evaluate the effectiveness of AI implementation, monitor organizational performance, measure outcomes, and use evidence to support continuous improvement, innovation, and organizational learning.

Relationship Between AI Adoption Levels and Recognition Domains

The AI Adoption Levels define an organization's stage of maturity in the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence.

The Recognition Domains establish the organizational capabilities expected at each stage of maturity.

The Essential Criteria identify the specific expectations that organizations should demonstrate to achieve recognition at a given AI Adoption Level.

Together, these three components provide a consistent and transparent framework for recognizing organizations that are advancing the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence in dentistry.

The sections that follow describe each Recognition Domain in detail, including the Essential Criteria, the minimum AI Adoption Level at which each criterion applies, and examples of acceptable evidence that organizations may submit in support of their application.

Section 4 – Recognition Pathways

Overview

The AAAI-D Recognition Program is designed to recognize organizations across the diverse environments in which dentistry is practiced, taught, and administered.

Although organizations differ in their size, mission, governance structure, and operational complexity, the principles of responsible artificial intelligence remain consistent.

Accordingly, all applicants are evaluated using the same AI Adoption Levels, Recognition Domains, and Essential Criteria.

Recognition Pathways provide guidance on how organizations may demonstrate the Recognition Standards within their specific organizational setting.

The Recognition Pathways do not establish separate standards. Rather, they recognize that different organizations may demonstrate compliance using different forms of documentation while being evaluated against the same expectations.

Recognition Pathways

The Academy currently offers four Recognition Pathways.

Pathway
1

Private Dental Practices

For solo practitioners, group practices, specialty practices, and private multispecialty practices.

Pathway
2

Multi-Site Practices and Dental Service Organizations (DSOs)

For organizations responsible for coordinating AI implementation across multiple clinical locations.

Pathway
3

Healthcare Organizations

For hospitals, integrated health systems, community health centers, federally operated healthcare organizations, military healthcare organizations, Veterans Health Administration facilities, Indian Health Service facilities, and other organizations delivering oral healthcare within larger healthcare systems.

Pathway
4

Academic Institutions

For dental schools, universities, academic health centers, residency programs, and other educational institutions whose missions include education, research, and patient care.

Pathway Guidance

The Recognition Standards remain identical across all Recognition Pathways.

However, organizations differ in how they demonstrate compliance.

The following table illustrates how the same Essential Criterion may be demonstrated within different organizational settings.

Recognition Domain	Private Practice	DSO	Healthcare Organization	Academic Institution
Leadership & Strategic Planning	Practice owner or partners	Executive leadership	Executive leadership or service chief	Dean or institutional leadership
Governance, Risk Management & Ethical Oversight	Practice policies and procedures	Enterprise governance structure	Organizational governance committees	Institutional governance committees
Workforce Education & Competency	Staff education and training	Organization-wide workforce development	Employee education and competency programs	Faculty, staff, and student education
Responsible AI Implementation	Clinical and administrative workflows	Standardized implementation across practices	Enterprise clinical and operational implementation	Clinical education, research, and institutional implementation
Performance Measurement, Continuous Improvement & Innovation	Practice quality improvement activities	Enterprise performance metrics	Organizational quality improvement and patient safety programs	Educational outcomes, research, and institutional quality improvement

The examples above are intended to illustrate how organizations may demonstrate the Recognition Standards within their own operational environment. They are not intended to limit the types of evidence that may be submitted.

Organizations may submit alternative documentation that clearly demonstrates fulfillment of the applicable Essential Criteria.

Selecting the Appropriate Recognition Pathway

Applicants should select the Recognition Pathway that most accurately reflects the primary mission and organizational structure of the entity seeking recognition.

Organizations operating in multiple environments should apply under the pathway that best represents the scope of the application.

Applicants who are uncertain which Recognition Pathway is most appropriate are encouraged to contact the Academy before submitting an application.

A Common Standard for the Profession

The Academy believes that responsible artificial intelligence should be evaluated using one consistent framework across the profession.

Accordingly, the AI Adoption Levels, Recognition Domains, and Essential Criteria remain uniform across all Recognition Pathways.

Only the examples of documentation used to demonstrate compliance vary according to organizational setting.

This approach promotes consistency, fairness, and flexibility while recognizing the diversity of organizations serving the dental profession.

Section 5 - Application and Recognition Process

Overview

The AAAI-D Recognition Program provides organizations with a transparent, consistent, and evidence-informed process for achieving recognition in the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence.

Organizations may apply for recognition at any AI Adoption Level. Because the AI Adoption Levels are cumulative, applicants seeking recognition at a particular level should demonstrate fulfillment of the Essential Criteria associated with the requested level and all preceding levels.

Recognition is awarded based upon the documentation submitted by the applicant and the organization's demonstrated achievement of the applicable Recognition Standards.

Eligibility

Organizations are eligible to apply if they:

Operate within the dental profession or support the delivery of oral healthcare, dental education, dental research, or dental administration.

Apply under the Recognition Pathway that best reflects their organizational structure.

Designate an organizational representative to serve as the primary point of contact throughout the application process.

Submit a completed application with supporting documentation demonstrating fulfillment of the applicable Essential Criteria.

The AAAI-D Recognition Program welcomes applications from organizations throughout the world.

Eligibility is not limited to organizations located within the United States. Private dental practices, multi-site practices, dental service organizations, healthcare organizations, academic institutions, and other eligible organizations from all countries are encouraged to apply.

The Recognition Standards are intended to support the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence across the global dental profession while recognizing the diversity of healthcare systems, educational models, regulatory environments, and organizational structures.

Application Process

The application process consists of eight steps.

Step 1 - Select a Recognition Pathway

Applicants should select the Recognition Pathway that best reflects their organization.

Current Recognition Pathways include:

Private Dental Practices

Multi-Site Practices and Dental Service Organizations (DSOs)

Healthcare Organizations

Academic Institutions

Step 2 - Select an AI Adoption Level

Applicants may apply directly for any AI Adoption Level.

Because the AI Adoption Levels are cumulative, organizations applying for a higher level should demonstrate fulfillment of the Essential Criteria associated with the requested level as well as all preceding levels.

Step 3 - Request the Application Packet

The official AAAI-D Recognition Application Packet will be available beginning January 1, 2027.

Organizations interested in applying should request the Application Packet by emailing info@aaai-d.org with the subject line:

Recognition Program

The Application Packet includes:

Official application form

Applicant instructions

Recognition Pathway guidance

Documentation checklist

Current Recognition Program fee schedule

Terms and conditions of participation

Additional guidance and supporting materials, as applicable

Step 4 - Complete and Submit the Application

Applicants should complete the official application and submit supporting documentation demonstrating fulfillment of the applicable Essential Criteria.

To facilitate efficient review, applicants are encouraged to organize their submission so that each supporting document clearly corresponds to the applicable Essential Criterion.

Organizations are not expected to submit identical documentation. Applicants may submit alternative documentation that clearly demonstrates fulfillment of the applicable Essential Criterion.

Applicants may use artificial intelligence tools to assist in preparing application materials. However, the applicant organization remains solely responsible for the accuracy, completeness, authenticity, and integrity of all information and supporting documentation submitted to the Academy.

An application is considered complete only after all required documentation and the applicable application fee have been received by the Academy. The review period begins upon the Academy's confirmation that a complete application has been received.

Step 5 - Submit the Application Fee

An application fee is required for all recognition applications.

The inaugural 2027 Recognition Program Fee Schedule is as follows:

Recognition Pathway	Initial Application Fee	Renewal Fee*
Private Dental Practices (Solo & Group Practices)	\$495 USD	\$295 USD
Multi-Site Practices & Dental Service Organizations (DSOs)	\$1,995 USD	\$995 USD
Healthcare Organizations	\$2,495 USD	\$1,495 USD
Academic Institutions	\$1,995 USD	\$995 USD

*Recognition is valid for three (3) years.

Application fees include:

- Administrative processing
- Application review
- Official AAAI-D Recognition Certificate
- Official AAAI-D Recognition Mark
- Listing in the official AAAI-D Recognition Directory (unless the organization requests otherwise)

Application fees are non-refundable once the review process has commenced.

The Academy reserves the right to revise future fee schedules. Current fees will be published on the Academy’s website and included in the official Application Packet.

Step 6 - Academy Review and Verification

Upon confirmation that a complete application has been received, the Academy will review the submitted documentation to determine whether the organization has demonstrated fulfillment of the applicable Essential Criteria.

If additional information or clarification is required, the Academy may request supplemental documentation before a recognition determination is made.

The Recognition Program is based primarily on documentation submitted by the applicant. When appropriate, the Academy may request a virtual meeting or demonstration to clarify information contained within an application.

In exceptional circumstances, the Academy reserves the right to conduct an on-site verification visit. On-site verification is not a routine component of the Recognition Program and, when deemed necessary, will be coordinated with the applicant in advance.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Applicants should generally expect the review process to require approximately three (3) to six (6) months following the Academy’s confirmation that a complete application has been received.

Review timelines may vary depending on the complexity of the application, the completeness of the documentation submitted, requests for additional information, or the need for virtual or on-site verification.

The Academy will make reasonable efforts to keep applicants informed regarding the status of their application throughout the review process.

Step 7 - Notification of Recognition

Following completion of the review process, the Academy will notify the applicant in writing of the recognition outcome.

Recognition may be awarded:

At the requested AI Adoption Level;

At a lower AI Adoption Level if the requested level has not been fully demonstrated; or

Deferred pending submission of additional information.

Organizations recognized at a lower AI Adoption Level are encouraged to continue advancing their AI capabilities and may apply for a higher level whenever they believe they have fulfilled the applicable Essential Criteria.

Step 8 - Recognition

Organizations receiving recognition may publicly identify themselves using the official designation awarded by the Academy.

Examples include:

AAAI-D Recognized Organization – Level 1 (Aware)

AAAI-D Recognized Organization – Level 2 (Exploring)

AAAI-D Recognized Organization – Level 3 (Adopting)

AAAI-D Recognized Organization – Level 4 (Integrating)

AAAI-D Recognized Organization – Level 5 (Leading)

Recognition is valid for three (3) years from the date of award.

Organizations receiving recognition will receive:

An official AAAI-D Recognition Certificate.

Authorization to use the official AAAI-D Recognition Mark in accordance with the Academy's published brand guidelines.

Listing in the official AAAI-D Recognition Directory, unless the organization requests otherwise.

Recognition signifies that the organization has demonstrated achievement consistent with the applicable AAAI-D Recognition Standards at the level awarded by the Academy.

Recognition does not constitute accreditation, certification, regulatory approval, or endorsement of any specific artificial intelligence product, software application, manufacturer, or vendor.

Continuous Improvement

The AAAI-D Recognition Program is intended to promote continuous organizational improvement rather than a single point-in-time achievement.

Organizations are encouraged to use the Recognition Standards as an ongoing framework for leadership, governance, workforce development, responsible implementation, performance measurement, and continuous improvement.

Organizations may apply for a higher AI Adoption Level whenever they believe they have fulfilled the applicable Essential Criteria.

The Academy encourages recognized organizations to share their experiences, foster innovation, and contribute to advancing the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence throughout the global dental profession.

Section 6 – Maintaining Recognition

Overview

AAAI-D Recognition reflects an organization’s demonstrated achievement in the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence at the time recognition is awarded.

Maintaining recognition requires an ongoing commitment to responsible governance, continuous improvement, and adherence to the AAAI-D Recognition Standards.

Organizations are encouraged to use the Recognition Standards as a framework for continuous organizational development throughout the recognition period.

Recognition Period

Recognition is valid for three (3) years from the date of award unless otherwise determined by the Academy.

Organizations seeking to maintain uninterrupted recognition are encouraged to begin the renewal process approximately six (6) months before the expiration of their current recognition period.

Renewal of Recognition

Organizations wishing to renew their recognition should submit a renewal application demonstrating continued compliance with the applicable Recognition Standards.

Renewal applications should include:

A summary of significant organizational changes since the previous recognition.

Updated documentation supporting continued fulfillment of the applicable Essential Criteria.

Documentation supporting any requested advancement to a higher AI Adoption Level, if applicable.

Payment of the applicable renewal fee.

The Academy may establish a streamlined renewal process for organizations demonstrating continued compliance with the Recognition Standards.

Advancement to a Higher AI Adoption Level

Organizations are encouraged to pursue higher AI Adoption Levels as their AI capabilities mature.

Applicants seeking advancement should demonstrate fulfillment of the Essential Criteria associated with the requested AI Adoption Level, together with all applicable criteria from preceding levels.

Organizations are not required to wait until renewal to apply for advancement to a higher AI Adoption Level.

Changes in Organizational Status

Recognized organizations should notify the Academy of significant organizational changes that may affect their recognition status.

Examples include:

Change in organizational name.

Merger, acquisition, or substantial restructuring.

Significant changes to organizational leadership.

Changes affecting the scope of the recognized organization.

The Academy will determine whether additional documentation or a revised application is required.

Use of the AAAI-D Recognition Mark

Organizations receiving recognition are authorized to use the official AAAI-D Recognition Mark during the period in which recognition remains valid.

The Recognition Mark shall be used in accordance with the Academy's published brand guidelines and may not be altered, modified, or used in a manner that misrepresents the scope or level of recognition awarded.

Authorization to use the Recognition Mark automatically expires upon expiration, voluntary withdrawal, or termination of recognition.

Voluntary Withdrawal

Organizations may voluntarily withdraw from the Recognition Program at any time by providing written notice to the Academy.

Upon withdrawal, the organization shall discontinue use of the AAAI-D Recognition Mark and any public statements indicating current recognition.

Application and renewal fees are non-refundable.

Suspension or Revocation of Recognition

The Academy reserves the right to suspend or revoke recognition if it determines that:

Recognition was obtained through material misrepresentation or fraudulent documentation.

The organization no longer satisfies the conditions under which recognition was awarded.

The organization improperly uses the AAAI-D Recognition Mark or misrepresents its recognition status.

The organization fails to comply with applicable Recognition Program policies.

Whenever practicable, the Academy will provide the organization with an opportunity to respond before a final determination is made.

Reapplication Following Revocation or Expiration

Organizations whose recognition has expired, been voluntarily withdrawn, or been revoked may apply for recognition in accordance with the current Recognition Standards and application requirements established by the Academy.

Updates to the Recognition Standards

Artificial intelligence continues to evolve rapidly.

Accordingly, the Academy will periodically review and revise the AAAI-D Recognition Standards to reflect advances in science, technology, professional practice, and organizational experience.

Organizations are encouraged to use the most current edition of the Recognition Standards when preparing applications or renewal materials.

Contact Information

Questions regarding the AAAI-D Recognition Program may be directed to:

- American Academy of Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry (AAAI-D)
- Email: info@aaai-d.org
- Subject Line: Recognition Program

Additional information, announcements, application materials, and future updates to the Recognition Standards will be published through the Academy's official website.

Closing Statement

The American Academy of Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry believes that responsible adoption of artificial intelligence requires thoughtful leadership, sound governance, continuous learning, and an unwavering commitment to patient care.

Through these Recognition Standards, the Academy seeks to promote excellence, encourage innovation, and provide organizations throughout the world with a practical framework for advancing the responsible integration of artificial intelligence across the dental profession.

Responsible AI adoption is not defined by how much AI an organization uses. It is defined by how responsibly it is governed.

Appendix

Introduction to the Recognition Domains

The AAAI-D Recognition Standards are organized into five Recognition Domains comprising 25 Essential Criteria.

Together, these criteria provide a structured framework for evaluating an organization's readiness, adoption, integration, and leadership in the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

The purpose of the 25 Essential Criteria is not simply to determine whether an organization qualifies for recognition. Rather, they are intended to help organizations understand where they are today, identify opportunities for growth, and establish a practical roadmap for continuous improvement.

Each Essential Criterion is introduced at a specific AI Adoption Level and reflects progressively greater organizational maturity. As organizations advance from Level 1 (Aware) through Level 5 (Leading), expectations evolve from foundational awareness and planning to organization-wide integration, continuous improvement, and professional leadership.

The Recognition Standards are designed to be flexible and applicable across diverse organizational settings. While the methods used to achieve the standards may differ according to organizational size, mission, resources, and healthcare system, the underlying principles of responsible AI adoption remain consistent.

Organizations are encouraged to use these standards as both a self-assessment tool and a strategic planning resource. Whether an organization is beginning its AI journey or has already implemented advanced AI capabilities, the Recognition Standards provide a common framework for measuring progress, guiding organizational development, and promoting the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence throughout the dental profession.

Collectively, the five Recognition Domains and 25 Essential Criteria establish a transparent, evidence-informed framework that supports organizational excellence while advancing the Academy's mission to promote the safe, ethical, and responsible use of artificial intelligence in dentistry worldwide.

Domains:

Domain 1 – Leadership & Strategic Planning

Intent

Responsible adoption of artificial intelligence begins with organizational leadership.

Leaders establish the vision, priorities, governance, and organizational culture necessary to ensure that artificial intelligence is implemented in a manner that supports patient care, professional integrity, organizational effectiveness, and continuous improvement.

This domain evaluates whether leadership has established the strategic direction, organizational accountability, and resources necessary to support responsible AI adoption.

Essential Criterion 1.1 – Leadership Commitment

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 1 – Aware

Standard
Organizational leadership has formally acknowledged artificial intelligence as an area of strategic importance and has demonstrated a commitment to exploring its responsible adoption.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Leadership statement
- Strategic priorities
- Executive or leadership meeting minutes
- Board or governing body documentation
- Organizational communications
- AI vision or position statement

Essential Criterion 1.2 – Strategic Planning

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 2 – Exploring

Standard
The organization has incorporated artificial intelligence into its strategic planning process or maintains a documented plan that identifies goals, priorities, or implementation activities appropriate to the organization’s mission and level of AI maturity.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Strategic plan
- AI implementation roadmap
- Digital transformation strategy
- Annual operating plan
- Organizational goals and objectives
- Project plans

Essential Criterion 1.3 - Leadership Accountability

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 3 - Adopting

Standard

The organization has established clear leadership accountability for the planning, coordination, or oversight of artificial intelligence initiatives.

Responsibility may be assigned to an individual, committee, department, or leadership team, as appropriate for the organization's size and governance structure.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Organizational chart
- Leadership assignments
- Committee charter
- Position descriptions
- Governance documentation
- Executive responsibilities

Essential Criterion 1.4 - Organizational Integration

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 4 - Integrating

Standard

Artificial intelligence has been integrated into organizational planning and decision-making processes across multiple functional areas, as appropriate for the organization's mission.

Leadership routinely evaluates AI initiatives as part of broader organizational planning and operational oversight.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Enterprise strategic plans
- Executive dashboards
- Operational review reports
- Cross-functional implementation plans
- Leadership performance reviews
- Organizational planning documents

Essential Criterion 1.5 - Leadership Excellence and Continuous Improvement

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 5 - Leading

Standard

Leadership demonstrates an ongoing commitment to advancing the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence through continuous evaluation, organizational learning, innovation, and strategic improvement.

The organization promotes a culture in which AI implementation is regularly assessed and refined in support of its mission and long-term objectives.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Annual organizational reviews
- Strategic performance reports
- Innovation initiatives
- Quality improvement projects
- Organizational outcome reports
- Continuous improvement plans

Domain Summary

Leadership provides the foundation for responsible artificial intelligence adoption.

Organizations demonstrating excellence in this domain establish a clear strategic direction, assign organizational accountability, integrate AI into leadership decision-making, allocate appropriate resources, and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

As organizations progress through the AI Adoption Levels, leadership evolves from awareness and planning to organization-wide integration and sustained strategic leadership.

Domain 2 – Governance, Risk Management, Ethics & Compliance

Intent

Responsible adoption of artificial intelligence requires more than implementing technology. Organizations should establish governance processes that promote accountability, ethical decision-making, appropriate risk management, and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and organizational policies.

Governance structures should be appropriate for the organization’s size, mission, and level of AI adoption. While implementation may differ among organizations, all should demonstrate responsible oversight throughout the lifecycle of AI-enabled systems.

This domain evaluates how organizations govern, oversee, and manage artificial intelligence in a responsible, transparent, and accountable manner.

Essential Criterion 2.1 – Governance Structure

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 1 – Aware

Standard

The organization has identified who is responsible for overseeing artificial intelligence activities. Oversight responsibilities should be clearly assigned to an individual, committee, department, or governing body appropriate to the organization’s size and structure.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Organizational chart
- Leadership assignments
- Committee charter
- Governance statement
- Board or executive documentation

Essential Criterion 2.2 – Risk Assessment

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 2 – Exploring

Standard

Before implementing an AI application, the organization evaluates potential risks and anticipated benefits. Risk assessment should be appropriate to the intended use of artificial intelligence and may consider:

Patient safety
Clinical impact
Operational impact
Privacy and confidentiality
Cybersecurity
Bias and fairness
Transparency
Vendor reliability
Regulatory considerations

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Risk assessment
- Project planning documents
- Privacy review
- Cybersecurity assessment
- Vendor evaluation
- Implementation planning documentation

Essential Criterion 2.3 – Policies for Responsible AI Use

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 3 – Adopting

Standard

The organization has established written policies or procedures governing the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

Policies should address, as appropriate:

Appropriate use of AI
Human oversight
Organizational accountability
Documentation expectations
Workforce responsibilities
Monitoring and reporting

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- AI governance policy
- Standard operating procedures
- Organizational policies
- Acceptable use policy
- Human oversight procedures
- Documentation standards

Essential Criterion 2.4 - Integrated Governance and Compliance

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 4 - Integrating

Standard

Artificial intelligence governance has been incorporated into the organization's broader governance, compliance, quality improvement, privacy, cybersecurity, or operational oversight processes, as appropriate for the organization.

Leadership periodically reviews AI activities to ensure continued alignment with organizational objectives, applicable laws and regulations, and internal policies.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Governance framework
- Compliance reports
- Executive review reports
- Quality committee documentation
- Privacy or cybersecurity reports
- Organizational dashboards

Essential Criterion 2.5 - Ethical Leadership and Continuous Governance

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 5 - Leading

Standard

The organization demonstrates a sustained commitment to ethical, transparent, and accountable use of artificial intelligence.

Leadership regularly evaluates governance processes, updates organizational policies as needed, and promotes continuous improvement in response to evolving technologies, scientific evidence, professional guidance, and regulatory developments.

Organizations at this level are encouraged to contribute to the advancement of responsible AI governance through education, research, quality improvement, collaboration, or professional leadership.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Governance review reports
- Policy revisions
- Ethics initiatives
- Organizational improvement projects
- Educational programs
- Research activities
- Professional presentations
- Collaborative initiatives

Domain Summary

Effective governance provides the organizational foundation for responsible artificial intelligence.

Organizations demonstrating excellence in this domain establish clear oversight, evaluate risks before implementation, develop policies for responsible AI use, integrate governance into organizational operations, and continuously strengthen their governance framework through ethical leadership and ongoing improvement.

As organizations progress through the AI Adoption Levels, governance evolves from assigning responsibility to establishing a mature, organization-wide framework that supports the safe, ethical, and responsible adoption of artificial intelligence.

Domain 3 – Workforce Education & Competency

Intent

The responsible adoption of artificial intelligence depends upon a workforce that possesses the knowledge, skills, and professional judgment necessary to use AI appropriately.

Organizations should prepare their workforce to understand the capabilities, limitations, and appropriate use of artificial intelligence while maintaining professional accountability and independent clinical judgment.

Educational activities should be appropriate to the organization’s mission, workforce, and level of AI adoption.

This domain evaluates how organizations prepare, support, and continuously develop their workforce for the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

Essential Criterion 3.1 – AI Awareness

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 1 – Aware

Standard

The organization has introduced organizational leadership and the workforce, as appropriate, to the basic concepts, opportunities, limitations, and responsible use of artificial intelligence.
Education at this level is intended to establish awareness rather than technical proficiency.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Educational presentations
- Orientation materials
- Staff communications
- Introductory educational resources
- Meeting agendas
- Educational newsletters

Essential Criterion 3.2 – Workforce Development Planning

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 2 – Exploring

Standard

The organization has identified the educational and competency needs associated with planned AI implementation and has developed an approach for preparing the workforce.
Planning should be appropriate to the organization’s mission and anticipated use of artificial intelligence.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Workforce development plan
- Educational strategy
- Competency framework
- Training schedule
- Professional development plan
- Implementation roadmap

Essential Criterion 3.3 – Workforce Education and Competency

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 3 – Adopting

Standard

The organization provides education appropriate to the AI technologies being implemented and promotes competency in their responsible use.

Education should address, as appropriate:

Intended use of AI applications
Appropriate human oversight
Professional accountability
Recognition of AI limitations
Data privacy and security responsibilities
Organizational policies governing AI use

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Educational curricula
- Training records
- Competency assessments
- Continuing education activities
- Attendance records
- Organizational education materials

Essential Criterion 3.4 – Integrated Workforce Development

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 4 – Integrating

Standard

Artificial intelligence education and competency development are integrated into the organization's ongoing workforce development activities.

Educational programs are periodically reviewed and updated to reflect changes in organizational needs, technologies, and professional expectations.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Workforce development programs
- Continuing education plans
- Annual education schedules
- Competency review processes
- Educational evaluations
- Professional development records

Essential Criterion 3.5 - Organizational Learning and Professional Leadership

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 5 - Leading

Standard

The organization demonstrates a sustained commitment to organizational learning and contributes to advancing AI education within the dental profession.

Organizations at this level promote continuous learning, evaluate educational effectiveness, and share knowledge through educational initiatives, research, collaboration, mentoring, or professional service, as appropriate to their mission.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Educational outcome reports
- Faculty or workforce development initiatives
- Educational research
- Professional presentations
- Publications
- Mentorship programs
- Collaborative educational activities

Domain Summary

Responsible artificial intelligence requires a workforce that is informed, competent, and prepared to exercise professional judgment.

Organizations demonstrating excellence in this domain establish a culture of continuous learning by promoting AI awareness, developing workforce competencies, integrating education into organizational practice, and contributing to the advancement of AI education across the dental profession.

As organizations progress through the AI Adoption Levels, workforce development evolves from foundational awareness to sustained organizational learning and professional leadership.

Domain 4 – Responsible AI Implementation

Intent

Artificial intelligence should be implemented in a manner that supports patient care, organizational objectives, professional accountability, and continuous quality improvement.

Implementation should be deliberate, evidence-informed, and appropriate for the organization’s mission, resources, and level of AI adoption.

Organizations should ensure that AI applications are introduced through structured processes that include appropriate planning, human oversight, performance evaluation, and ongoing monitoring.

This domain evaluates how organizations responsibly implement, integrate, monitor, and continuously improve the use of artificial intelligence.

Essential Criterion 4.1 – Implementation Planning

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 1 – Aware

Standard

Before implementing artificial intelligence, the organization has identified potential areas where AI may support its mission, strategic objectives, or operational needs.

Potential applications should be evaluated in relation to organizational priorities and anticipated benefits.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Needs assessment
- Strategic planning documents
- AI opportunity assessment
- Workflow analysis
- Organizational priorities
- Implementation roadmap

Essential Criterion 4.2 – Pilot Implementation

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 2 – Exploring

Standard

The organization evaluates one or more AI applications through structured planning, pilot activities, or other appropriate evaluation processes before broader implementation.

The scope and complexity of pilot activities should be appropriate to the organization’s size and intended use of artificial intelligence.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Pilot project documentation
- Implementation plan
- Evaluation reports
- Vendor assessment
- Workflow testing
- Project summaries

Essential Criterion 4.3 – Operational Implementation

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 3 – Adopting

Standard

Artificial intelligence has been incorporated into one or more routine organizational workflows.

Implementation includes documented procedures, appropriate human oversight, workforce preparation, and organizational monitoring consistent with the intended use of the AI application.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Standard operating procedures
- Workflow documentation
- Clinical or operational protocols
- Implementation reports
- User guidance
- Organizational policies

Essential Criterion 4.4 – Organizational Integration

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 4 – Integrating

Standard

Artificial intelligence has been integrated across multiple organizational functions, where appropriate, and is supported by standardized implementation processes.

Leadership periodically evaluates implementation performance and coordinates AI activities across relevant organizational areas.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Organization-wide implementation plan
- Cross-functional workflows
- Operational dashboards
- Performance reports
- Enterprise implementation documentation
- Quality improvement records

Essential Criterion 4.5 – Continuous Evaluation and Responsible Innovation

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 5 – Leading

Standard

The organization routinely evaluates the effectiveness of AI implementation and continuously refines its practices based on organizational experience, scientific evidence, quality improvement activities, and evolving professional standards.

Organizations at this level promote responsible innovation while maintaining appropriate human oversight and organizational accountability.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Outcome evaluations
- Quality improvement initiatives
- Implementation reviews
- Innovation projects
- Research activities
- Lessons learned documentation
- Organizational improvement plans

Domain Summary

Responsible implementation extends beyond adopting new technology. It requires structured planning, thoughtful integration, ongoing oversight, and continuous evaluation.

Organizations demonstrating excellence in this domain implement artificial intelligence in a manner that supports patient care, organizational effectiveness, and professional accountability while maintaining flexibility to adapt as technologies and evidence continue to evolve.

As organizations progress through the AI Adoption Levels, implementation advances from identifying opportunities for AI to achieving organization-wide integration and continuous innovation.

Domain 5 – Performance Measurement, Continuous Improvement & Organizational Excellence

Intent

Responsible adoption of artificial intelligence is an ongoing organizational commitment rather than a one-time implementation effort.

Organizations should evaluate the impact of AI on clinical care, education, research, operations, or administration, as appropriate to their mission. Performance measurement and continuous improvement enable organizations to identify opportunities for refinement, strengthen governance, improve outcomes, and support long-term organizational excellence.

This domain evaluates how organizations monitor AI implementation, measure organizational performance, promote continuous improvement, and demonstrate sustained leadership in the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

Essential Criterion 5.1 – Performance Monitoring

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 1 – Aware

Standard

The organization has identified one or more measures that may be used to evaluate the implementation or performance of artificial intelligence initiatives appropriate to its mission and level of AI adoption. Performance measures may include clinical, operational, educational, research, financial, or administrative indicators.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Performance indicators
- Project objectives
- Key performance measures
- Implementation metrics
- Organizational scorecards
- Planning documents

Essential Criterion 5.2 – Performance Evaluation

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 2 – Exploring

Standard

The organization periodically evaluates available performance information to determine whether AI initiatives are progressing as intended and to identify opportunities for improvement.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Performance reports
- Pilot evaluations
- Outcome summaries
- Project reviews
- Meeting minutes
- Progress reports

Essential Criterion 5.3 – Quality Improvement

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 3 – Adopting

Standard

The organization uses performance information to support quality improvement and responsible refinement of AI implementation.

Improvement activities should be appropriate to the organization’s mission and may include clinical, operational, educational, administrative, or research initiatives.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Quality improvement projects
- Corrective action plans
- Process improvement documentation
- Workflow improvements
- Outcome evaluations
- Organizational reports

Essential Criterion 5.4 – Organizational Learning

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 4 – Integrating

Standard

Performance measurement and quality improvement are integrated into routine organizational operations.

Leadership regularly reviews organizational performance, evaluates lessons learned, and incorporates findings into strategic planning, governance, workforce development, and AI implementation activities.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Organizational dashboards
- Executive review reports
- Strategic planning updates
- Annual performance reviews
- Quality committee reports
- Continuous improvement plans

Essential Criterion 5.5 – Organizational Excellence and Professional Contribution

Minimum AI Adoption Level: Level 5 – Leading

Standard

The organization demonstrates sustained organizational excellence through continuous evaluation, innovation, and responsible leadership in the adoption of artificial intelligence.

Organizations at this level actively contribute to advancing responsible AI within the dental profession through activities appropriate to their mission, such as education, research, publication, quality improvement, collaboration, mentoring, or professional service.

Examples of Acceptable Evidence

- Annual organizational reports
- Innovation initiatives
- Research projects
- Publications
- Professional presentations
- Educational programs
- Collaborative initiatives
- Recognition or awards
- Professional leadership activities

Domain Summary

Organizations demonstrating excellence in this domain use performance measurement as a foundation for continuous improvement and long-term organizational success.

Performance information is used not only to evaluate AI implementation but also to strengthen leadership, governance, workforce development, and organizational decision-making.

As organizations progress through the AI Adoption Levels, performance measurement evolves from identifying meaningful indicators to establishing a culture of continuous learning, organizational excellence, and professional leadership that advances the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence throughout the dental profession.

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