

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN PODIATRY

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 10:00 AM
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT
Third Floor Hearing Room

CALL TO ORDER

I. MINUTES

Review and approval of the minutes from March 2, 2022.

II. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM) plans to issue a certificate in podiatric surgery.

ADJOURN

**This meeting will be held remotely
Board of Examiners in Podiatry via Microsoft Teams**

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 263 270 731 133

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The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the Board.

The **Connecticut Board of Examiners in Podiatry** held a meeting on March 2, 2022.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Martin M. Pressman, DPM
Joseph Treadwell, DPM
Leo Veleas, DPM

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Raeanne Curtis
Vita Hardy

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Participants were present via Microsoft Teams

I. Minutes

The minutes from the December 1, 2021 were approved, on a motion by Dr. Veleas, seconded by Dr. Treadwell.

II. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m. on motion by Dr. Veleas, seconded by Ms. Hardy.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin M. Pressman, DPM
Connecticut Board of Examiners in Podiatry



ACFAS Statement on Board Certification

The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) recognizes the role of board certification as an attestation to medical providers' mastery of the standards and competencies specific to their training and practice within their specialty. Historically, board certification has provided the public with a trustworthy indication of their provider's expertise. Increasingly however, board certification is being utilized as a requisite for obtaining and maintaining hospital privileges, as well as for participation with third-party payor networks.

The podiatric profession in the United States is currently subdivided into two specialties, podiatric medicine and podiatric (foot and ankle) surgery. ACFAS supports the recognition of one certifying board per specialty, as has been the determination of the Joint Committee on the Recognition of Specialty Boards (JCRSB) of the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME). This policy supports the CPME's goal of "prevention of unnecessary duplication by boards and maintenance of minimum standards for the conduct and operation of specialty boards."¹ The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) is recognized as the certifying board in the specialty of foot and ankle surgery and The American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM) is recognized as the certifying board for primary podiatric medicine and podiatric orthopaedics.

ACFAS is alarmed by the announcement from the American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM) that it plans to issue an unrecognized certificate in podiatric surgery. Allowing a Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) not recognized by any accrediting body and circumvents the JCRSB determination risks safe patient care, the public's trust and the reputation of our profession.

ACFAS acknowledges that credentialing bodies (hospital medical staffs, third-party payors, and other entities) may require board qualification/certification as one of many measures to determine a candidate's worthiness of privileging or eligibility to provide specific services. ACFAS believes privileging, when determined to be contingent on board certification, should reflect certification or qualification by the specialty board recognized for assessing the training and demonstrated competence for the specific privilege in question.

The existence of separate certification in surgical and medical specialties in the profession of podiatry ultimately exists to protect the health and welfare of the public. It is also an important mechanism which allows doctors of podiatric medicine to develop the practice that best suits them and their ability to optimally serve their patients. The value of this distinction is maximized when clear delineations are maintained regarding the specialty training each board serves to certify. Those who have mastered the surgical aspects would be proficient enough to be board certified/qualified with ABFAS. For these reasons, ACFAS recognizes the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery as the only certifying board in the specialty of foot and ankle surgery and requires obtaining this certificate in order to be a Fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

¹ Council on Podiatric Medical Education, <https://www.cpme.org/boards/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2423&&navItemNumber=2238>



A Statement from APMA on the Announcement of a Certificate of Added Qualification in Podiatric Surgery by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine

APMA's mission is to defend our members' ability to practice to the full extent of their education and training to best serve the public health. In fulfilling that mission, APMA depends on board certification through the two CPME-recognized boards, the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) and the American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM). The rigorous board certification processes established by these two organizations support APMA's work to demonstrate our members' education, training, experience, and ongoing commitment to quality care.

APMA has concerns about the announcement by ABPM of a new Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Podiatric Surgery:

- We have heard from members in support of and in opposition to this new CAQ. There are strong feelings on both sides, creating division and discord within a small profession that depends on unity and collaboration to accomplish its goals.
- The profession has long recognized that there are two distinct specialties in which to be board certified: medicine and surgery. Our single, standardized Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency provides access to either or both certifying boards, depending on the choice and practice activity of the individual physician. Our current president, Laura J. Pickard, DPM, is among those physicians who hold certification from *both* boards.
- In 2019, APMA convened a Blue-Ribbon Panel to examine specialty board recognition. One outcome of that process, in which both ABFAS and ABPM participated, was a recommendation that APMA reaffirm its longstanding policy of recognizing only one certifying board for each unique area of clinical practice. Recognizing only one board in each area was deemed critical to serving the public interest and mitigating confusion in the health-care community. A CAQ in Podiatric Surgery offered by ABPM would seem to be a duplication of what is already offered by the recognized board for certification in surgery.
- APMA believes there is a strong possibility that a CAQ in Podiatric Surgery could confuse and mislead the public. A physician who has just completed residency is eligible to earn this CAQ. For those more than three years out of residency, ABPM requires only 25 total cases (five cases from each of five categories) with no requirement for diversity within those categories. Compare these scenarios to ABFAS board certification in foot surgery, which requires at least 65 cases. The CAQ in Podiatric Surgery has a high potential to mislead a patient to believe a surgeon has more experience and expertise than they do. The CAQ also causes greater confusion for other health-care specialties, insurance companies, state legislators, and hospitals, which already frequently mischaracterize podiatrists' education, training, and certification.

In light of these concerns, APMA consulted with the Council on Podiatric Medical Education. While ABPM notes that CAQs are not recognized by CPME, CPME does have oversight of the boards through its Specialty Board Recognition Committee (SBRC). CPME issued a statement on August 11 requesting that specialty boards “refrain from implementing CAQs, including the CAQ in podiatric surgery,” until CPME has an opportunity to complete the planned rewrite of its SBRC documents. APMA supports CPME’s statement and its request for delayed implementation.

APMA also has reached out to ABFAS and ABPM in an effort to mediate the current situation and broker an outcome that is most beneficial for our members and their patients.

Certificates of Added Qualification



2023 Examination Dates

[CLICK HERE](#)



CAQ in Amputation Prevention & Wound Care

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



CAQ in Podiatric Sports Medicine

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



CAQ in Podiatric Surgery

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

What is a Certificate of Added Qualification?

A **Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ)** is a voluntary step beyond Board Certification that recognizes knowledge, expertise, and experience in a subspecialty of podiatry. A CAQ is a step issued solely by the ABPM to recognize a podiatric physician who has established **additional competency beyond board certification**.

The Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) is a special distinction created and issued solely by the ABPM to recognize a podiatric physician who has established additional competency beyond board certification in either Amputation Prevention and Wound Care, Podiatric Surgery or Podiatric Sports Medicine.

Why Does the ABPM Offer a CAQ?

A Certificate of Added Qualification allows a podiatric physician to demonstrate additional expertise in a particular area of podiatric medicine. This added qualification is separate and distinct from primary board certification and indicates that the holder has remained up to date with the latest educational knowledge and techniques.

The CAQs in **Amputation Prevention & Wound Care**, **Podiatric Surgery** and **Podiatric Sports Medicine** were developed by ABPM in response to the changes in public needs and the desire of many podiatrists to have a mechanism to be recognized for their commitment to a subspecialty of podiatry.

This process will be available to *any* podiatrist certified with a CPME-recognized board with specific practice interest and demonstrable expertise in this area who passes a validated, knowledge-based examination.

What benefit does the CAQ have for me?

Yes, the **American Board of Medical Specialties** has over **125 CAQs available** for providers to set themselves apart from other providers within their specialties.

Based upon diplomate interest over the past several years, the ABPM has developed a vetting process leading to a CAQ in Amputation Prevention and Wound Care, a CAQ in Podiatric Sports Medicine, and later a CAQ in Podiatric Surgery.

Do Other Certifying Boards Offer CAQs?

The CAQ examination fee is **\$295**. For applicants choosing to submit cases, there is an **additional \$200 non-refundable fee**.

What is the Cost to Take the CAQ Exam?

The Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) is a special distinction created and issued solely by the ABPM to recognize a podiatric physician who has established additional competency beyond board certification in Amputation Prevention and Wound Care, Podiatric Surgery or Podiatric Sports Medicine.