

POLICY PROPOSITION X-24: SINGLE CERTIFYING BOARD IN PODIATRIC MEDICINE & SURGERY

Sponsors:

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The APMA has promoted the vision of a single certifying board in podiatric medicine and surgery (i.e. Vision 2015) and podiatric physicians overwhelmingly favor a single certifying board as seen in a recent online poll and the proceedings of the APMA's Board Certification Summit (March 2023). However, there has been no official policy establishing the directive or a pathway from the APMA.

In 2003, the CPME consolidated all postgraduate residency training programs into the Podiatric Medicine & Surgery for 24 and 36 months (PM&S-24 and PM&S-36), ensuring that all residents were trained in both specialties. In 2011, the CPME created the Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency (PMSR) program which is a standardized, 36-month experience. A vast majority of programs offer the added credential in Reconstructive Rearfoot and Ankle (RRA) surgery. Less than 10 programs nationwide do not offer this added credential, and even many of those few programs provide training in RRA procedures but cannot meet the Minimum Activity Volume (MAV) required by CPME 320. Therefore, for more than 20 years, all podiatric residents have completed programs that met CPME standards and criteria in both podiatric medicine and surgery.

One board in podiatric medicine and surgery helps to create parity with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) which has only one recognized member board for each of the ACGME-approved residency specialties.

Two recognized boards in podiatric medicine and surgery is confusing for the profession, hospitals, and the public since there is a single residency training model. Additionally, two separate boards for the same residency program creates unnecessary costs and testing procedures affecting podiatric physicians and teaching institutions.

According to the APMA Bylaws (Section 8.0), "the House of Delegates shall be the legislative and governing body of this association." Additionally, the House of Delegates shall have the authority to "approve policies, positions, propositions, resolutions, or otherwise take action as necessary in the name of the association."

The Bylaws of the APMA and the CPME state that the CPME receives its authority from the APMA and that the APMA HOD "designates the Council to act as the agency for the evaluation,

accreditation, approval, and recognition of educational institutions, providers, programs, and specialty boards in the field of podiatric medicine.”

However, the APMA has sole authority to recognize special areas of practice in the field of podiatric medicine create a certifying board. This authority of the APMA is retained and described in Section O of the Administrative Procedures titled, “Recognition of a Special Area of Practice/Creation of a Certifying Board”. The APMA Administrative Procedures “represents a comprehensive manual of procedures to enable implementation of the APMA Bylaws or other policies of the association.”

Under the APMA Bylaws, the APMA Administrative Procedures, and the CPME Bylaws, the APMA HOD has the authority to legislate the special areas of practice and certifying boards and the CPME’s authority and autonomy is limited to administrating the standards for initial and continuing recognition. Furthermore, the CPME does not have any authority granted by the APMA to recognize subspecialties within podiatric medicine and surgery.

POSITION:

It is the policy of the APMA that the profession will be best served by a single certifying board in podiatric medicine and surgery with the added possibility of subspecialty certifications.

The APMA HOD hereby creates a One Board Task Force consisting of nine members; two representatives from the BOT (one of whom will serve as the chair), two representatives from the ABFAS, two representatives from the ABPM, and the chair and executive director of CPME, and one representative from the AACPM.

The One Board Task Force is charged with:

- Creating recommendations on a framework for the evolution from our current system to a single recognized certifying board.
- Creating recommendations to the HOD on the recognition of subspecialties in podiatric medicine and surgery.
- Provide recommendations, including changes needed to governance documents, in a report to the HOD on or before September 1, 2024.

The One Board Task Force will operate according to the rules of other APMA committees. The task force will not be delayed or stopped by any refusals to participate. If an organization declines to provide representatives, the task force number will be reduced by the number of refusals for the calculation of quorum and committee governance.