

CPME 209c

NEW SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

COUNCIL ON PODIATRIC MEDICAL EDUCATION

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

Subspecialty certification relates to a specific component of a specialty to which a practicing podiatric physician may devote a significant portion of time. CPME does not recognize certificates of added qualification (CAQs).

Specialty boards can only offer their primary certification(s) and subspecialty certification(s). Specialty boards cannot offer certificate of added qualification (CAQ), focused areas of practice, or other forms of recognition, only primary and subspecialty certifications.

Subspecialty certification incorporates a specific and identifiable body of knowledge that may include certain procedural skills or practice modes but must not be limited only to training in a technical skill.

Specialty boards may issue subspecialty certification in the fields represented by such specialty boards.

Process to Submit a Proposal for a Subspecialty Certification

- Prior to submitting a proposal for a subspecialty certification to the SBRC and the CPME, the specialty boards must first consult among themselves, formally and in writing, to determine interest and willingness to collaborate.
- The proposal from a specialty board for a new subspecialty certification is forwarded to the CPME staff.
- CPME staff will review the proposal for a subspecialty certification and determine if the proposal is complete. If the proposal is not complete, additional information will be requested with a specified due date.
- Following staff review, the proposal will be forwarded to the SBRC chair who will determine if the submitted proposal is complete and ready for dissemination to the community of interest.
- The community of interest will be surveyed for a period of at least 60 days following the submission of a new subspecialty certification. These comments will be forwarded to the SBRC and CPME.
- The SBRC will review the survey comments and the complete proposal for a subspecialty certification within six (6) months.
- Prior approval of the CPME is required if any specialty board proposes creation of a new subspecialty certification.
- All existing qualifications/certifications beyond primary certification cannot continue to be offered without the prior approval of the CPME.

SBRC Proposal for Subspecialty Designation

General Information

Board(s):

Contact Name:

Email:

Phone:

1. Please provide the name of the proposed area of sub specialization:

CPME standard 12.1: In establishing a subspecialty certification, the specialty boards shall first consult among themselves, formally and in writing, to determine interest and willingness to collaborate.

Specialty boards may apply for subspecialty certification collaboratively or individually after initial consultation.

- A. Are multiple specialty boards requesting this certification?
- B. Consultation with existing specialty boards about working together must have occurred. Provide a description of the process and its results in a written statement indicating concurrence or specific grounds for objection from each CPME approved specialty board.

Purpose, Status, and Need

CPME standard 12.3: Boards offering a subspecialty certification shall require the completion of a CPME-approved residency program and a minimum of one (1) year of fellowship training in a CPME-approved fellowship or an alternative pathway that will be available for 10 years following approval of the subspecialty. The specialty board shall identify a rigorous process reflective of the subspecialty's KSAs for the alternative pathway.

CPME standard 12.4: Subspecialty certification shall be

- 1) endorsed by the board sponsoring the subspecialty certification and*
- 2) endorsed by the board whose diplomates are being proposed for subspecialty certification and*
- 3) approved by the CPME*

While subspecialty certification is intended to apply primarily to diplomates of the sponsoring specialty board(s), boards may accept applicants holding certification from another specialty boards with the endorsement of that specialty board.

2. Briefly state the purpose of the proposed area of subspecialization:
 - A. Areas of subspecialization typically fall under one of these areas. Please describe which of the following this proposal addresses:
 - Evolving area of practice.
 - Area of practice limited in scope or size.
 - Area supported by publications and research as a defined body of knowledge and practice.
 - B. Describe how the existence of a body of scientific medical knowledge underlying the proposed area of subspecialty is, in large part, distinct from, or more detailed than that of other areas in which certification or sub specialization are offered.
3. Explain how this proposed area of subspecialty addresses a distinct and well-defined patient population and care need. There must be a national, not regional, need for the subspecialty.
 - A. What is the current number of podiatric physicians eligible for this subspecialty certification (along with the sources(s) of data)?
4. Identify the existing national societies that have a significant interest in the area of subspecialty. Additionally, indicate the size and scope of the societies, along with the source(s) of the data.
 - A. Indicate the relationship of the national societies' membership with the proposed subspecialty designation.
 - B. Describe whether and how your specialty board has interacted with the key societies and stakeholders in developing this proposed designation.
5. Define the subspecialty's:
 - A. Clinical Competence.
 - B. Scope of practice.
 - C. Body of knowledge and skills.
6. Indicate whether there is any overlap between this area of subspecialty and existing specialty and subspecialty certifications.
7. Outline plans for evaluation of the impact of the proposed area of subspecialty on your own programs of specialty and subspecialty certification.
8. Outline plans for evaluation of the impact of the proposed area of subspecialty on other CPME Specialty Boards' programs of specialty and subspecialty certification.
9. Benefits to the public (include your rationale).

10. Explain the effects if this area of subspecialty is not approved.

Eligibility and Assessment

CPME standard 12.5: *Approval of any subspecialty certification shall be accomplished by the mechanism and process authorized in the New Subspecialty Certification section (see CPME 230).*

Specialty board(s) seeking authorization to issue subspecialty certification in a proposed area must provide assurance that the specialty board must conduct an evaluation of the impact and effect of the proposed subspecialty certification on its own general and subspecialty training and practice as well as that of other specialty board(s).

11. What specialty and/or subspecialty certification(s) will a diplomate be required to hold and maintain in order to be eligible for this area of subspecialty?

12. Provide the clinical practice experience (both in terms of time and patient volume) in the area of the subspecialty practice, beyond initial training.

13. Describe the availability of current and future fellowship training for this subspecialty in a CPME-approved fellowship or an alternative pathway that will be available for 10 years following approval of the subspecialty.

14. List any Additional Qualifications (if any).

15. Describe the assessment methods for candidates to gain this subspecialty certification.

A. Describe the rationale behind the method(s) required in the assessment process.

Implementation and Approval Process

CPME standard 12.6: *The boards shall develop a policy for continuous certification for subspecialty certification.*

16. Outline the Continuing Certification (CC) program planned for this subspecialty designation. Include how the CC program will align with CC requirements for your diplomates' underlying certificate(s).

17. Indicate how the proposed area of subspecialty will be evaluated periodically (e.g., every five years) to assure that the area of subspecialty remains viable.

18. Provide an anticipated timeline for when your specialty board will assess candidates and when your specialty board will begin issuing this designation.

19. List key stakeholder groups from which SBRC may wish to solicit commentary on the proposed area of subspecialty.

20. Additional attachments:

- An example of how diplomates will be recognized for this subspecialty designation. (The acknowledgment that a diplomate has received a subspecialty certification may be in the form of a letter or an email, or a notation on a diplomate's online public record.)

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