

New CAQ in Podiatric Surgery

The American Board of Podiatric Medicine announces the addition of a new Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Podiatric Surgery to the Board's expanding lineup of professional credentials.

This CAQ is a voluntary step beyond Board Certification that recognizes knowledge, expertise, and experience in the subspecialty of podiatric surgery. CAQs are valuable demonstrations of a provider's competence in each subspecialty. Among sole practitioners, CAQs provide compelling reassurance and confidence to prospective patients to know they are being treated by someone possessing knowledge and experience beyond those of the everyday provider. For those podiatrists seeking greater opportunity in hospitals, clinics, collaboratives and other large institutional employers, CAQs provide additional prestige and competitiveness to both physicians and their institutions.

ABPM provides Certificates of Added Qualification in response to changes in public needs and to meet the desire of many podiatrists for recognition of their commitment to a subspecialty of podiatry beyond board certification. ABPM recognizes there is significant market demand among diplomates for a CAQ in podiatric surgery. This credential is analogous to those provided by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Surgery, as a voluntary step after primary board certification.

Any podiatrist with a specific practice interest in podiatric surgery, who can demonstrate the required criteria below and pass a validated, knowledge-based examination and demonstrate the added experience can earn this credential.

Requirements:

- Completion of a CPME-approved podiatric surgery residency (PMSR, PM&S, PSR)
- Board certification by a CPME-recognized board
- Surgical privileges at a hospital or ambulatory surgical center

Pathway 1: Complete an approved PMSR residency (3 years)

If the applicant has completed their residency within the last 3 years and is currently certified by an approved CPME residency, completion of the ABPM CAQ exam will earn them the credential. The exam consists of 125 multiple choice questions.

Pathway 2: Completion of a Podiatric Surgical Residency (PSR) OR a Podiatric Medicine and Surgery (PM&S) residency.

Applicant must meet the requirements listed above and take the multiple-choice exam listed in Pathway 1.

Applicants must also provide a case log and submit 25 cases for review, all of which were performed in the past 5 years.

Case Review Specifics:

There must be 5 cases from each of the 5 surgical training categories as listed in the CPME 320 document; these are

1. Digital Surgery
2. First Ray Surgery
3. Other Soft Tissue Surgery
4. Other Osseous Surgery
5. Reconstructive Rear foot / Ankle Surgery

There is no requirement regarding diversity within each category

The Case Review Committee reserves the option to reject the case submission and/or request additional case submissions at no additional cost. Surgical cases performed during a podiatric fellowship must occur after board certification by ABPM to be accepted towards the case requirements of the CAQ in Podiatric Surgery.

Case Submission requirements:

- Case logs from the multiple logging platform are accepted
- Operative note or operative nursing note
- Post-operative office visit notes
- Pre-operative office visit/podiatric history & physical (discussion of surgical indications and consent),
- Biomechanical evaluation if applicable
- Pre-operative radiographs/medical imaging
- Post-operative radiographs/medical imaging as indicated
- Pertinent consultations, pathology, laboratory and diagnostic studies
- Photographs if available
- Brief written synopsis of each case – provide a short narrative regarding patient, procedural choice, and clinical outcomes

CAQ in Podiatric Surgery Expected Timeline

Applications Open: August 15, 2022

Deadline for Cases: December 31, 2022

Deadline for Applications: January 15, 2023

Exam: March 6-11, 2023

Note: 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.