FACT SHEET

APMA PROPOSITION 4-24
ESTABLISHMENT OF RE-ELIGIBILITY PATHWAYS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION IN
PODIATRIC MEDICINE & SURGERY

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PROPOSED POSITION:
It is the policy of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) that the profession and
the public would benefit from a podiatric board certification re-eligibility pathway.

The APMA House of Delegates requests that the Specialty Board Recognition Committee
(SBRC) CPME 220/230 Ad Hoc Committee consider creation of procedures to allow
recognized boards to open eligibility to examine podiatric physicians who completed any
CPME-approved residency training program.

Board certification used to be “voluntary” and the “ceiling”. However, now, it has become the
“floor” necessary to obtain hospital privileges and participate in commercial insurance
networks.

Current CPME standards for recognized boards prohibit eligibility for podiatrist who completed
an earlier CPME-approved program less than 3 years.

CPME 220

CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR RECOGNITION
OF A SPECIALTY BOARD
FOR PODIATRIC MEDICAL PRACTICE

5.2 The specialty board shall require candidates for certification to have successfully
completed a minimum of three years of CPME-approved residency training.

This criterion is waived for the founders group of the specialty board.

This means that any podiatrist who completed earlier CPME-approved residency programs (RPR,
PPMR, POR, PSR-12, PSR-24, PM&S24) are forever prohibited from being certified by a
recognized specialty board. This causes significant harm to their ability to practice.
A Re-Eligibility Pathway Represents Parity with our MD Colleagues

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has a policy requiring boards to maintain an open door for re-eligibility after the initial eligibility period expires.

FAQs

- Isn’t this the same as grandfathering?

No. Re-eligibility just means that someone is eligible to sit for the same exam that everyone else takes. Candidates who are re-eligible must meet all the other criteria to become certified and pass the exam.

- Does this policy force CPME or the specialty boards to act?

No. This policy proposition only asks CPME to consider allowing specialty boards to create pathways for re-eligibility, similar to the ABMS. This action is completely in the purview of the APMA and it is the ideal time to send this request to the CPME since Documents 220/230 are currently in revision.

- Didn’t the profession create a pathway for these ineligible podiatrists to become certified in the past?

Yes. A pathway remained open for a period of time after the residency standards changed, but it has since closed. Since then, more hospitals and insurance companies have required board certification in order to participate. Now podiatrists who completed then-CPME-approved residency programs are being shut out from engaging in the full scope of care in all settings.