



Report of the Council on Podiatric Medical Education – October 2020

The Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME or Council) held its fall meeting October 17. The recommendations emanating from Council committees, which completed their deliberations at meetings held from September-October, constitute the majority of each CPME agenda and include the review of progress reports from the colleges of podiatric medicine. The Continuing Education Committee and the Residency Review Committees held their meetings in August and September and the Accreditation Committee and the Council’s Budget Planning and Executive Committees met in October.

Bylaw Changes

The Council updated the *CPME Bylaws* and policy documents at the October meeting. The *CPME Bylaws* were updated to clarify the procedures to attend the public session of Council and its committees, the appointment of representatives to non-CPME committees, and to allow a former Council member to chair an Ad hoc committee. The updated *CPME Bylaws* are located at www.cpme.org.

Complaint and Appeal Procedures Update

The Council updated the *Complaint Procedures* document, CPME 925, to remove references to administrative probation. The *Appeal Guidelines*, CPME 935a and 935b, were updated to remove “reverse” as an action and to provide greater guidance to an appeals committee due to the updated U.S. Department of Education regulations. The updated documents can be found at www.cpme.org.

Revisions to the College Accreditation Eligibility Requirements Adopted

After an extensive four year process, multiple surveys and input from the communities of interest, CPME has adopted CPME 109, *College Eligibility Requirements*, which can be found at www.cpme.org. To ensure that a candidate institution has the authority, means, and resources to adequately support an educational program in podiatric medicine, the eligibility requirements have been established for colleges applying for initial accreditation or reaccreditation. These requirements must be satisfied in order that an application for candidate status, leading to accreditation may be considered. The revised *College Eligibility Requirements* document went into effect October 17, 2020.

College Virtual Site Visit Policies Adopted

Following a recommendation from the Council's Accreditation Committee, the Council voted to approve the CPME Virtual Site Visit Policy for the colleges as well as the CPME Agenda Guide for Virtual On-Site Visits, the CPME Virtual Site Visit Guidelines for Colleges of Podiatric Medicine, and the CPME Virtual Site Visit Guidelines for Evaluators of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine. This was in response to the guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education allowing recognized agencies to proceed with virtual site visits on a temporary basis, on the condition that they are followed, within a reasonable time frame, by an in-person visit to campus. These documents can be found on the CPME website at www.cpme.org.

CPME 320 and 330 Revisions

Every six (6) years, the Council conducts a comprehensive review of its standards, requirements, and procedures associated with its evaluation activities. In order to facilitate these reviews, ad hoc advisory committees are appointed. In 2018, the Council appointed an ad hoc advisory committee to review CPME publications 320 *Standards and Requirements for Approval of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residencies* and CPME 330, *Procedures for Approval of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residencies*. The [Residency Ad Hoc Advisory Committee \(Committee\) members](#) broadly represent the communities of interest related to residency education, and were selected with the belief that they would provide thoughtful analysis and insight into the needed evolution of residency training, in coordination with the goals and the interests of the profession. The Committee members include representatives from APMA BOT, APMA Young Physicians, ABFAS, ABPM, COTH, CPME, and program directors and evaluators.

As part of the review process, the Committee reviewed the requirements for residencies utilized in numerous professions including allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, and occupational therapy. Input to the process was provided through a survey of the residency community of interest, which included current program directors. The survey of the communities of interest took place in summer 2018 and the Committee held their first meeting in October 2018. The Committee has met several times over the past two years to review the input from the communities of interest and to create Draft I of the revised CPME publications 320 and CPME 330. At the Council's October 2020 meeting, Draft I of CPME publications 320 and CPME 330 was approved.

Per CPME 330, prior to adoption, all Council policies, procedures, standards, and requirements are disseminated widely in order to obtain information regarding how the Council's community of interest may be affected. Draft I revisions of CPME publications 320 and 330 **will be disseminated in the coming days and open for comment until January 31, 2021**. Following a review of the comments from the community of interest, the proposed revisions to CPME publications 320 and 330 will be considered for final adoption by the Council during its **April 2021** meeting.

Statement on COVID-19 and MAVs

In September 2020, CPME sent a survey to program directors to assess the continued impact of COVID-19 on residency training programs. After reviewing the results of the survey, the Residency Review Committee determined that it is too early in the training year to make any recommendation related to modifications of requirements related to the minimum activity volume of procedures (MAVs) and required rotations. As such, programs are expected to meet the requirements currently set forth in CPME publication 320, *Standards and Requirements for Approval of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residencies*.

CPME recognizes that this is an evolving situation that may change over the next few months.

Therefore, the Council plans to conduct another survey in January 2021 to determine the level to which the COVID pandemic continues to impact residents' abilities to meet MAV and rotation requirements. The Residency Review Committee will consider the results of this survey to determine if any modifications should be made to the MAVs for residents who will complete training in 2021.

The Committee will make a recommendation to the certifying boards and the Council no later than mid-February, and any modifications will be communicated to program directors and residents once a final decision is made.

Spring 2021 Residency Visits to be Conducted Virtually

During its October meeting, The Council approved the recommendation of the Residency Review Committee that in light of the continued COVID-19 pandemic, all on-site evaluation visits for residency and fellowship programs scheduled for spring of 2021 will be conducted virtually.

All programs that are scheduled for an on-site evaluation in the spring will receive formal notification from CPME in November.

CPME Recommendation Concerning Part II CSPE

During the Council's October meeting they reviewed the request made by the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) to "modify the requirement of passing the CSPE examination, which is part of the Part II examination, from prior to beginning a residency program to prior to completing a residency program." The Residency Review Committee made a recommendation to the Council, which the Council approved. That recommendation and resultant action states that residency programs will not be cited with an area of noncompliance if they accept students entering residency training in 2021 who have not passed the NBPME Part II CSPE. The Council did not go so far as to state

when students or residents should take the examination, as that is outside the purview of the Council. Instead, the Council stayed within its scope based on the standards and requirements made explicit in CPME 320, *Standards and Requirements for Approval of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residencies*, specifically requirement 3.6, which states, “The sponsoring institution shall accept only graduates of colleges of podiatric medicine accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education. Prior to beginning the residency, all applicants shall have passed the Parts I and II examinations of the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners.”

College Accreditation Actions October 2020

During the October 2020 meeting, the Council took no accreditation actions.

Residency and Fellowship Actions

Residency actions at the October 2020 CPME meeting included the following. (Please see pages 13-17 of the July 2015 version of CPME 330, *Procedures for Approval of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residencies*, at www.cpme.org for definitions of the following categories of approval.)

- Sustain to Withdraw Approval – 0
- Withdraw Approval – 0
- Probationary Approval – 0
- Approval – 1
- Approval with additional information requested – 6
- Provisional Approval - 1

Continuing Education Activities and Actions

The Continuing Education Committee (CEC) approved continuing **education contact hours (CECH) be awarded for manuscript review**. The policy/process for manuscript review and the award of CECH will be added to the newly created Continuing Education Policies document. This document will be uploaded to the CPME website at www.cpme.org.

Continuing Education actions taken at the fall 2020 meeting of the Council include the following:

- Approval with additional information requested – 6
- Approval of New Provider – 2
- Probationary Approval – 2
- Voluntary Termination – 0