

Summary of Substantive Changes

May 2025

CPME 220

- Updated criteria and guidelines terminology used in the previous version of CPME 220 and 230; the revised terminology refers to standards and requirements.
- The introduction was rewritten for better flow and to clarify CPME's role. It removed repetitive phrases and tightened the explanation of CPME's authority and relationship with APMA.
- A previous statement that CPME does not determine the need for specialty boards was omitted, streamlining the message around recognition authority.
- Moved Autonomy of Specialty Boards to the Introduction.
- Edited flow of document by moving standards and requirements to better match sections of document.
- Removed redundancies from document and added new standards and requirements to better define the requirements.
- New requirements added concerning regular job analyses, detailed cut-score, methodologies, and ongoing evaluation of subject matter experts and testing contractors.
- Added requirement of having a public member on a membership-elected governing board. (5.2)
- Clarified that a specialty board shall only recognize attributes and specialty training within the scope of its own specialty board. (5.6)
- 6.3: Added requirement for specialty boards to establish "well-defined, rigorous, transparent, and equitable alternative pathways for initial board certification for those candidates who do not qualify under 6.2" (those who have not completed a minimum of three years of CPME-approved residency training).
- Strengthened standard 7: Examination.
- Accommodations under the ADA and clear candidate guidance materials were emphasized.
- Clarified that "The specialty board shall only grant additional credentials related to its specialty area of expertise following approval from the CPME." (8.4)
- Clarified expectations for initial and continuing certification, practice requirements, and continuing education.
- Specialty boards are now expected to implement learning-oriented assessments, gather feedback from diplomates, and evaluate their processes using performance data.
- Added that "The specialty board shall receive prior approval from the CPME before implementing a substantive change." (11.3)
- Removed references to certificates of added qualification (CAQ). Specialty boards can only offer their primary certification(s) and subspecialty certification(s). (12.0)
- Added new standard related to Subspecialty Certification: "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.” (12.3)

- Added new standard related to Professionalism (standard 13).
- Added new standard related to Continuing Certification (standard 14).
- Added Glossary of terms.

CPME 230

- Included language concerning APMA assigning the responsibility of specialty board recognition to the CPME. This authority allows the CPME to recognize entities that offer board certification and that demonstrate and maintain compliance with the standards and requirements.
- Added section concerning policies and procedures as they relate to “Requirements for Recognition of a New Specialty Board” and procedures for withdrawal or termination of an initial application.
- Added to and clarified the Application Review processes and the Recognition Action.
- Outlined procedure of SBRC review and CPME action for consideration of continuing recognition.
- Clarified categories of recognition and added Recognition with Report and Probation categories.
- Provided greater detail concerning notification of CPME actions.
- Added procedural reconsideration, reconsideration, and appeals processes to document.
- Included detailed information concerning substantive changes.
- Removed references to certificates of added qualification (CAQs).
- Added procedures for submitting a proposal for subspecialty certification.
- Added Extension, Alternative Pathways, and Transition of Residency Program Requirements and Board Certification Policies.
- Clarified that CPME actions and recognition disclosures, along with any areas of noncompliance, will be posted on the CPME website.
- Added sections concerning complaints, nondiscrimination policy, and document reviews.
- Added Glossary of terms.

Created new documents:

CPME 209a: Specialty Board Eligibility Application Requirements

CPME 209b: Specialty Board Initial Recognition Application

CPME 209c: New Subspecialty Certification Application and Requirements