



The American Board for Certification

in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics

May 2008

ABC Calendar of Events

June 2008

1st: Certification Application Deadline

August 2008

4th - 9th: Certification Exams

September 2008

10th – 13th: American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association Annual Assembly in Chicago, IL

November 2008

6th – 9th: Pedorthic Footwear of America (PFA) Annual Symposium in Nashville, TN

17th – 22nd: Certification Exams

March 2009

1st: Certification Application Deadline

4th-7th: American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists (AAOP) Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA

September 2009

30th: Mandatory Accreditation Deadline from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

For further information on these events, please visit www.abcop.org or contact our office at 703-836-7114.

Update to the Pedorthic Community

In an effort to keep the Pedorthic Community informed of ABC's activities, we are pleased to provide the following update on ABC's pedorthic activities.

ABC serves four primary purposes: certifying individuals, accrediting patient care facilities, approving continuing education courses and administering a professional ethics program. We also seek to communicate the importance of the ABC certification and accreditation standards to referral sources, third-party payors and the public.

Certification ABC's Certified Pedorthist program remains strong. Today, a total of 2,504 Certified Pedorthists (C.Ped.s) are certified, including 140 who have gained the C.Ped. designation since the integration of BCP.

In addition, 650 individuals now hold the designation of Certified Fitter-therapeutic shoes (CFts). This new credential is designed for individuals trained and qualified in the provision of non-custom therapeutic shoes and non-custom diabetic multi-density inserts only.

The former BCP Pedorthic Exam Committee remained intact after the ABC/BCP integration, and their continued work has focused on contemporizing the exam process and content. Our C.Ped. examination is now offered three times per year in May, August and November. The exams are administered at over 250 locations nationwide, and are given in a computer based testing format.

Facility Accreditation As most of you know, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that all existing DMEPOS providers must be accredited by September 30, 2009, in order to bill and receive payment from Medicare. This includes all pedorthic patient care facilities.

Outreach to the Pedorthic Community regarding ABC accreditation continues. All pedorthic patient care sites have been sent an accreditation package containing an application, an *Accreditation Guide*, and the *Standards* for ABC's Pedorthic Facility Accreditation program. We will be active participants at this year's Pedorthic Footwear Association (PFA) annual symposium. The ABC Accreditation Workshop at this year's event is strongly recommended for all pedorthic business managers looking for insight into the accreditation process.

The Strength & Stability of ABC

- Over 60 Years
of Setting the
Standard for O&P
- Track Record of
Financial Stability
- 2,200 plus Accredited
Patient Care Facilities
- 12,500 plus
Credentialed Individuals

Response to the program has been positive, and we anticipate more facilities will apply for accreditation as the CMS deadline draws closer. Due to the time and number of facilities involved, we encourage all facilities to seek accreditation as early as possible.

Continuing Education In 2007, more than 50 unique courses in pedorthics were approved for continuing education by ABC. These courses ranged from the many offerings available through the PFA as well as other national, state and local meetings. Within the first quarter of 2008, 25 courses with pedorthic-specific programming have already been approved.

A list of approved courses and dates are posted on the continuing education section of the ABC website. This convenient resource allows Certified Pedorthists to not only find programs to attend, but also to see the amount of credits awarded and contact information. In a change from the continuing education structure of the BCP, course sponsors send records of attendance directly to ABC, allowing proper credit to be awarded to individual C.Peds. You are no longer responsible for submitting attendance information on your behalf. However, if a course is not pre-approved by ABC, you must submit a Category II application, along with proof of attendance and a copy of the brochure/agenda for review.

With pedorthics included in several of the state licensing laws, ABC staff provides certification verifications at no additional expense to the certified pedorthist. This service is a benefit for maintaining ABC certification.

As was the case with the BCP, C.Ped.'s are still able to review their continuing education credit lists online. However, you now have the ability to modify the report to show only a specific timeframe. This report is very convenient to have when you need to submit information to state licensure boards, hospital credentialing boards, contract applications, employers, third party payors and other organizations requiring verification of continuing education credits.

Professional Discipline The ABC Professional Discipline Committee continues to process and adjudicate cases involving violations of the ABC Code of Professional Responsibility by Certified Pedorthists and all credentialed individuals. Since integration, one C.Ped credential has been suspended for a period of two years for violation of the Code.

Governance ABC's two C.Ped. board of directors members, David Cardillo, C.Ped., and Dennis Janisse, C.Ped., have attended each of the four face-to-face board meetings since the formal integration of the Board for Certification in Pedorthics (BCP) in January 2007. They also both attended the 2007 PFA Symposium and represented ABC at a joint PFA/ABC executive committee meeting and at the ABC certificant meeting.

Mr. Cardillo's board term will expire on 11/30/2008. He has informed the ABC Nominating Committee that he will not seek another term. Therefore the nominations committee is seeking nominations for that and one other board

position. The selected directors will be voting members of the board and will participate in overseeing general management of the organization's affairs, including policy development, governance and budgetary matters. Nominees for the open positions must be ABC certified orthotists, prosthetists or pedorthists in good standing with a record of volunteer involvement through ABC or the former Board for Certification in Pedorthics (BCP). Additional information can be found on the ABC website under News and Events.

Scope of Practice Committee and Practice Analysis Committee The ABC Scope of Practice Committee, including members Michelangelo Scafidi, C.Ped., Ted Colaizzi, C.Ped., and Dennis Janisse, C.Ped., held a meeting in February 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to review the current Scope of Practice of each of the ABC credentials, begin to draft revisions and explore topics needing further review. Changes to the ABC Scopes of Practice are based on content of current education curriculum, practice analysis studies of contemporary practice and input from a geographically and professionally diverse group of individuals in the profession. A second meeting will be held later this year to continue the work of the Committee.

The Pedorthic Exam Committee found that it needed information that was not available from the 2006 Job Task Analysis study that was commissioned by the BCP. Therefore, a two-day meeting of nine C.Ped.'s, including four of the original five 2006 task force members was held in March 2008 to revise and contemporize the Pedorthic Practice Analysis. A draft of the domains, tasks, knowledge and skill statements is now being reviewed by the committee. The next steps will be validating the information with a survey and using the data for test content specifications and many other projects.

Regulatory Affairs The Board of Directors monitors government affairs issues that impact the profession. Both independently and with the O&P Alliance, ABC has been working closely with CMS. Recently we responded to CMS' request for comments on the proposed new supplier standards on topics such as a standard that would prohibit sharing space with another Medicare provider, and one that provides information on the requirement that services must be provided by a W-2 employee, rather than a 1099 contractor.

When CMS published a revised Appendix C for the Quality Standards we submitted comments to emphasize the need to include therapeutic shoes and inserts where the standards indicate that the patient care provider must have "specialized education, training and experience AND appropriate certification/licensure."

We have lobbied for and were strongly supportive of including the new definitions and standards addressing therapeutic shoes and inserts. ABC introduced and supported the addition of therapeutic footwear in the quality standards as a unique and distinct section.

Financial Position/Audit ABC's financial statements undergo an annual audit performed by an external independent auditor under professional auditing and accounting standards. We had a very positive fiscal year in 2007 that was more than adequate for our current programs and is allowing for expansion. Each year, in an effort to commit to transparency about our financial position, our annual report is posted on our website. This year's report will be posted in May, and we hope you will review that for additional financial information.

Marketing In addition to running ads in each issue of *Current Pedorthics*, all ABC press releases are sent to the PFA for publication. We exhibit at a variety of pedorthic, orthotic and prosthetic trade and professional conferences such as the PFA Symposium, the Atrex Elite Conference, and the American Academy of Diabetes Educators.

We are pleased to have been selected by COPE to give two presentations at the 2008 PFA Symposium. ABC will present a 1-hour session on general accreditation and a 4-hour ABC-specific accreditation session as an

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Add-On Course. We will also hold an informational meeting for certificants and have a booth in the exhibit hall.

Career Information: ABC staff has worked with the Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists to add Pedorthics as one of the careers outlined on the career website www.opcareers.com. This website was created by the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists as part of their national awareness and recruitment campaign. Ongoing development and support is made possible by a grant through the U.S. Department of Education.

ABC Website: www.abcop.org There several sections of the ABC website specific to C.Peds. Please log on to find information on many topics of interest such as News and Events, Continuing Education, Certification, and Facility Accreditation. To login to your account and see MCE or invoice information, go to "Log on to My Account".

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with this information. Please do not hesitate to contact the ABC staff if we may provide you with any further information about ABC's programmatic activities. ABC can be reached at 703-836-7114.