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Contact: Debbie Ayres
(703) 836-7114, ext. 224
dayres@abcop.org

ABC Announces Exciting Certification Program Changes

The American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc. (ABC) announces several changes to its highly successful certification programs. Due to the rising number of candidates choosing ABC for their certification, the board of directors has increased the number of exams given each year to meet this growing demand. In 2011, ABC administered nearly 2,300 exams across all disciplines and expects that number to increase in 2012 and beyond.

Beginning January 2013, all discipline-specific written and written simulation exams will be administered six times per year, every other month, and continue to be available in 250 locations nationwide. The first exams for 2013 will be administered the week of January 14-19. The application deadline for the January exams is November 1, 2012.

“The ABC Board is always mindful of meeting the needs of our applicants and feels that with the increased number of candidates choosing ABC across all disciplines, the expansion of the number of exam administrations is a logical next step. We think this a good move for the profession and allows more flexibility for candidates to take the exam closer to the completion of their education and required experience,” says Donald D. Virostek, CPO, ABC President.

In addition, the Clinical Patient Management exam for orthotist and prosthetist candidates will be given three times each year. The next CPM exams will be December 8-9, 2012 for the Orthotic CPM exam and January 4-5, 2013 for the Prosthetic CPM exam. Both exams will be given in St. Petersburg, Fla., at St. Petersburg College Caruth Health Education Center. The application deadline for the December/January CPM exams is September 1.
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ABC has also changed the application deadline requirements for those seeking orthotist and prosthetist certification. All applications must be received in the ABC offices no later than the deadline, not postmarked by that date. However, all candidates have an additional 30 days beyond the application deadline to complete their residency. This is a significant change for those candidates who will be finishing their residencies within that month and will no longer have to wait until the next exam cycle.

Additional 2013 CPM exam dates include:

**Spring CPM Exams**
- Orthotics: March 9-10
- Prosthetics: March 15-16
- Application Deadline: January 1
- Residency Completion Deadline: February 1

*Dallas - University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*

**Summer CPM Exams**
- Orthotics: July 26-27
- Prosthetics: August 2-3
- Application Deadline: May 1
- Residency Completion Deadline: June 1

*Atlanta - Georgia Institute of Technology*

“ABC feels strongly that the in-person Clinical Patient Management Exam is a vital measurement of competency. Every year we have a waiting list for each administration of the exam and our hope is that by adding an additional testing cycle, all candidates will be accommodated,” says Catherine A. Carter, ABC Executive Director.

Additional details on application deadlines and candidate requirements are available on the ABC website at [www.abcop.org](http://www.abcop.org).

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Located in Alexandria, Va., the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics, Inc. (ABC) is the national certifying and accrediting body for the orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic professions. The public requires and deserves assurance that the persons providing orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic services and care are qualified to provide the appropriate services, and it was on this basis that the ABC was established as a credentialing organization in 1948. ABC sets the highest standards for the profession and certifies more than 13,000 individuals and accredits over 8,000 facilities.