

American Board of Lower Extremity Surgery

LIMITATIONS ON CASE SUBMISSIONS

Candidates for certification are required to submit seventy-five diverse cases of their own experience. The case mix is determined by the candidate, but there are limitations imposed on the number of cases of various types that may be submitted. In the tables which follow, procedures are broken down into categories. Candidates may submit fewer cases than the stated maximums for any procedure or any category. Submissions cannot exceed either the maximum allowable number indicated for the named procedures, or the maximum allowable number indicated for each category. Candidates are not required to submit cases in all categories.

ARTHRODESIS category maximum: 20	procedure maximum	comments
Interphalangeal	5	By any means, with/without removable fixation
Interphalangeal with screw	8	Permanent internal fixation device
Metatarsophalangeal	5	By any means
Tarsometatarsal	10	By any means
Intertarsal	15	By any means
Subtalar triple	15	By any means
Ankle mortice	15	By any means

LATER REMOVAL OF ANY FIXATION OR PROSTHETIC DEVICE BY THE SAME SURGEON IS NOT A CREDITABLE CASE.

ARTHROPLASTY category maximum: 15		
Phalangeal head and/or base resection	8	
Interphalangeal implant	8	
Other IPJ remodeling	5	Osteophytes, condyles, other lesions
MPJ	5	Excluding bunionectomies
MPJ implant other than 1st MPJ	15	Any type, including autogenous graft
Other MPJ remodeling	8	Osteophytes, condyles, other lesions
Ankle	8	Includes intra capsular portions of malleoli
Other joint remodeling	10	Intertarsal, tarsometatarsal joints

ARTHROSCOPY category maximum: 15		
Diagnostic	5	Any joint; report of findings must be submitted
Corrective surgical procedure	10	Any joint; tissue removed, vaporized, or divided

BUNIONECTOMY category maximum: 30		LATER REMOVAL OF ANY FIXATION OR PROSTHETIC DEVICE BY THE SAME SURGEON IS NOT A CREDITABLE CASE.
Simple	15	Any bunionectomy not incorporating metatarsal osteotomy
Aiken/Reverdin	15	
Austin/other biplanar osteotomy	15	
Base closing wedge osteotomy	15	
Triplanar osteotomy	15	
Double osteotomy	15	Separate site, non-intersecting osteotomies
Other osteotomy	15	
Keller	15	
Implant	15	Any device, first MPJ
Taylor's, without osteotomy	10	
Taylor's with osteotomy	15	

EXCISION category maximum: 20	procedure maximum	comments
Coalition, tarsal	15	
Coalition, other	15	
Mass, without reparative graft	15	Malignant or benign, nonarticular
Mass, with nonpulverized reparative graft	15	Malignant or benign, nonarticular
Malleolar, partial, extracapsular	15	
Metatarsal, partial	15	Nonarticular; includes nonwedge partial diaphysectomy
Metatarsal, excision of fragment	15	Must originate in nonsurgical trauma
Phalanx, total	15	Includes excision of fracture fragments of nonsurgical trauma
Phalanx, partial, not arthroplasty	15	Includes excision of fracture fragments and condylectomies
Sesamoid	10	Any site; includes accessories attached/imbedded in tendon
Tarsal, partial, nonarticular	15	Includes heel spur excision
Tarsal, total	15	

FRACTURES category maximum: 30		LATER REMOVAL OF ANY FIXATION OR PROSTHETIC DEVICE BY THE SAME SURGEON IS NOT A CREDITABLE CASE.
Phalangeal, closed reduction	5	Must submit pre- and postoperative x-rays with op report
Phalangeal, open reduction	10	
Metatarsal, closed reduction	5	Must submit pre- and postoperative x-rays with op report
Metatarsal, open reduction	15	
Metatarsal, multiple, open reduction	15	
Tarsal, closed reduction	5	No cuneiforms; submit pre- and post op x-rays with report
Tarsal, open reduction	15	
Malleolar, single, closed reduction	5	Must submit pre- and postoperative x-rays with op report
Malleolar, single, open reduction	15	
Bimalleolar, closed reduction	5	Must submit pre- and postoperative x-rays with op report
Bimalleolar, open reduction	15	
Trimalleolar, open reduction	15	

OSTEOTOMIES category maximum: 30		LATER REMOVAL OF ANY FIXATION OR PROSTHETIC DEVICE BY THE SAME SURGEON IS NOT A CREDITABLE CASE.
Phalanx, hallux	5	
Phalanx, other	10	
Metatarsal, lesser, chevron or simple DFWO	5	
Metatarsal, lesser, step-down, peg-in-hole, etc	15	
Metatarsal, lesser, lengthening	15	
Metatarsal, 1st, base wedge, opening/closing	5	Performed without bunionectomy
Metatarsal, 1st, base, DFWO	5	
Metatarsal, multiple	5	
Tarsal, cuboid	15	
Tarsal, navicular	5	
Tarsal, talus	15	
Tarsal, calcaneus	15	

OTHER BONE PROCEDURE category maximum: 30		LATER REMOVAL OF ANY FIXATION OR PROSTHETIC DEVICE BY THE SAME SURGEON IS NOT A CREDITABLE CASE.
Grafts, any purpose, not elsewhere included	15	Any site, any source; excludes bone chip pack for lytic lesions.
Subtalar stay peg arthroeresis	15	
Other procedures	*	Contact ABLES office

AMPUTATION category maximum: 30	procedure maximum	comments
Symes, digital	10	Each such case must be proved with a pathology report which makes it clear that there has been an amputation of a body segment or part of segment, and the specimen must contain appropriate and sufficient soft tissue and bone to substantiate the case. "Bone only" amputations are not acceptable.
Digit	15	
Digit, multiple	15	
Transmetatarsal	20	
Other -- Contact ABLES office	*	

SOFT TISSUE category maximum: 30		
Ankle stabilization	15	Excludes repair of torn ligament by suturing
Excision, foreign body	15	Deep to superficial fascia (no prostheses or fixation devices)
Removal of prosthesis or fixation device	5	Must not have been implanted by same surgeon.
Excision, ganglion	15	
Excision, neuroma	15	
Excision, other mass, nonmuscle	10	Deep to superficial fascia
Excision, mass, muscle	15	
Fasciotomy/fasciectomy, plantar	15	Separate procedure, without heel spur excision
Ligament repair by suture	15	Ligament divided by trauma or late effect of earlier surgery
Ligament repair by graft	15	Ligament divided by trauma or late effect of earlier surgery
Tarsal tunnel syndrome/other decompression	15	
Syndactylization/desyndactylization	15	
Skin, graft, rotation flap	15	Closure of skin defect not created by concurrent procedure
Skin, graft, other	15	Closure of skin defect not created by concurrent procedure
Skin, other plastic repair	10	Must eliminate nerve entrapment or restore joint function
Skin, excisions, lesion, with primary closure	10	
Tendon, tenoplasty/repair	15	Lengthen, shorten, reroute, repair preop defect; no tenotomies
Tendon transfer	15	Excludes tendons of intrinsic muscles of the foot
other procedures	*	Call ABLES office

MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION category maximum: 50		
Multiple procedures for repair of major trauma or correction of global deformity.	50	<u>Trauma</u> : open reduction of three or more fractures, at least three of which must be nondigital. <u>Correction of global deformity</u> : procedures requiring multiple osseous procedures and/or multiple extrinsic tendon transfers, e.g. midfoot sag, talipes equinovarus, calcaneovalgus, forefoot equinus, and similar procedures.