

American Board of Lower Extremity Surgery

PRECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

LICENSE | You must hold a current license to practice podiatric medicine, under no current disciplinary orders of suspension, restriction, probation or supervision.

CASE STUDIES | You must have some minimum level of surgical experience. This experience is documented in the form of surgical case studies. Details of case study documentation are provided on the reverse side of this form.

RESIDENCY TRAINING | If you graduated from one of the Colleges of Podiatric Medicine after 1991, you must have completed one year of postdoctoral training in an approved residency program.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW | The ABLES Board of Directors may, at its discretion, require you to undergo a personal interview by a Director. Such interview may be taken without notice, at any time or place, in person or by telephone, except that you shall not be required to undertake special travel for such interview.

APPLICATION | You must complete the ABLES' application, sign both the factual representations and acknowledgment sections. You must also sign the Authorization to Release Information thereby enabling us to obtain verification of your precertification credentials.

ENDORSEMENT | If you have successfully completed the written certification examination of another certification board, you may be qualified to obtain ABLES credit for that examination. Call ABLES to find out if your examination qualifies for endorsement.

RECERTIFICATION | In order to maintain your certification, you must be recertified every five years, clocked from the date of your credited written certification examination, even if such examination was credited by endorsement. Recertification is based on receiving favorable review on your presentation of documentation on ten of your own cases, and oral discussion, grand rounds style, on two of those cases selected by the board.

FEES | Please consult the "FEES" section on our ables.org web site for the current fees.

ABLES Case Documentation Requirements

QUANTITY	Seventy-five diverse cases, each a separate surgical encounter, are required. Multiple procedures performed in a single sitting are counted as a single case, and credit is given for only one procedure per case. You must indicate the procedure for which you are seeking credit.		
DIVERSITY	The Board does not require you to have performed any particular surgical procedure. The <u>Limitations On Case Submissions Form</u> lists the majority of commonly performed podiatric surgical procedures. Eleven categories are presented, each consisting of a number of specific procedures. Quantity limitations are indicated for each category and for each procedure within each category. You may submit any case mix you choose, so long as you do not exceed the category or specific procedure quantity limitations. If you wish to submit a procedure not listed, contact the Board for a determination on acceptability of the procedure. Submitted cases must not have been performed earlier than seven years before, nor later than three years after, your written examination.		
INITIAL SUBMISSION	The initial case submission is a simple list of cases presented on the ABLES' <u>Case Documentation Transmittal Form</u> . This form must be typewritten. It must be filled out at the top for identification purposes. Each submitted case is listed by entering the patient's name, the procedure for which credit is sought, and the date of the procedure. <u>Do not list any case for which you do not have all the items of documentation indicated in the next section.</u> Make and retain a copy of the form, and mail the form and your Initial Case Review Fee (<i>please check the current fee amount in the "FEES" section of our ables.org web site</i>) check to ABLES' offices via traceable delivery service.		
FULLY DOCUMENTED CASES	<p>ABLES case reviewers will select ten cases from the initial submission list for full documentation and final review. You will be provided with a binder to use in submitting these cases. The required items of documentation are as follows:</p> <table><tr><td data-bbox="337 1024 698 1255">1. History & Physical 2. Preoperative X-rays 3. Rationale for Surgical Case 4. Lab Studies 5. Complete Operative Report 6. Postoperative X-rays 7. Progress Notes</td><td data-bbox="966 1024 1414 1262">8. Complete Pathology Report* 9. Hospital Admission/Face Sheet ** 10. Discharge Summary ** * When tissue is removed during case, even if not related to the procedure in question. ** Required only for cases performed in a hospital or surgery center.</td></tr></table>	1. History & Physical 2. Preoperative X-rays 3. Rationale for Surgical Case 4. Lab Studies 5. Complete Operative Report 6. Postoperative X-rays 7. Progress Notes	8. Complete Pathology Report* 9. Hospital Admission/Face Sheet ** 10. Discharge Summary ** * When tissue is removed during case, even if not related to the procedure in question. ** Required only for cases performed in a hospital or surgery center.
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DEADLINE	The minimum content requirement for each of these items of documentation is described in the Case Preparation Guidelines sent to each candidate with examination grades. The completed binder with all required documentation must be submitted within thirty (30) days from the date you receive the binder. Deficient cases, and cases deemed unacceptable by the reviewers, will be rejected. You will have only one opportunity to repair or replace all the rejected cases and resubmit the binder. Make and retain copies of everything, and ship the binder to the ABLES via traceable carrier.		
RESIDENCY CASES	The case submission and approval process must be completed no later than the third anniversary of your written examination date. This three year period includes the processing time needed by the ABLES' case reviewers, and time you may need to repair or replace deficient cases. There are no provisions for extensions. Cases should be submitted by the thirty-second month to provide sufficient time for replacement of rejected cases and completion of final review by the deadline date.		