ABPS 500
Examination Blueprints
(Revised Classification)

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I. PART I OF THE CERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: Part I of the Certification in Foot Surgery Examination measures the individual's knowledge, skills, and judgment that are deemed necessary for entry into the Foot Surgery certification process.

Test Specifications: Part I of the Certification in Foot Surgery Examination tests the clinical knowledge and treatment skills acquired during an approved podiatric surgical residency. There are a maximum of 125 questions on the examination.

Examination Content Map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part I Didactic</th>
<th>Part I CBPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major Subject Area</strong></td>
<td><strong>%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Problem-focused History and Physical</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Differential Diagnosis</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Surgical Principles</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Procedural Perioperative Management</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Complications</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. General Medical</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CBPS Subject Area Content Map**

The questions may include any one of the following areas:

1) Trauma
2) Deformities/Biomechanics
3) Medicine/perioperative management (Infections/metabolic disease/arthritic disorders/emergency Medicine)
4) Complications/Revisions
5) Neoplastic Disorders
6) Neurovascular disorder
7) Congenital disorders/pediatrics
II. PART I OF THE CERTIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY EXAMINATION

**Purpose:** Part I of the Certification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Examination measures the individual’s knowledge, skills, and judgment that are deemed necessary for entry into the Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery certification process.

**Test Specifications:** Part I of the Certification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Examination tests the knowledge and treatment skills specific to reconstructive rearfoot/ankle surgery expected to be acquired during an approved advanced podiatric surgical residency. There is a maximum of 125 questions on the examination.

**Examination Content Map**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part I Didactic</th>
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<td><strong>Major Subject Area</strong></td>
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<td>E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques</td>
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**CBPS Subject Area Content Map**

The questions may include any one of the following areas:

1) Trauma
2) Deformities/Biomechanics
3) Medicine/perioperative management (Infections/metabolic disease/arthritic disorders/emergency Medicine)
4) Complications/Revisions
5) Neoplastic Disorders
6) Neurovascular disorder
7) Congenital disorders/pediatrics
III. PART II OF THE CERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION

Purpose: Part II of the Certification in Foot Surgery Examination measures the clinical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with an individual's capability to integrate academics with surgical experience.

Test Specifications: Part II of the Certification in Foot Surgery Examination includes oral and computer formats. Questions will involve diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient, based upon the following specifications:

1. Clinical scenarios
2. Problem solving (case-based format)
3. Surgical outcomes assessment (credentialing)
4. Perioperative management
5. Decision-making (within standards of care)
6. Is unbiased (regional, individual)
7. Is a practice analysis model
8. Includes clinical application of academics

Examination Content Map

The examination includes both long-format (oral) and Computer Based Patient Simulation (CBPS) case questions. While the questions will encompass the diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the presented patient, the intraoperative content will focus on surgical procedures of the entire foot and ankle, with the exception of reconstructive rearfoot/ankle procedures. The questions will be based on patients falling into one of the following categories:

- Biomechanical/Acquired deformities
- Congenital and/or pediatric deformities
- Infections
- Metabolic conditions and/or emergency medical management
- Neoplastic (primary or metastatic) conditions
- Traumatic conditions
- Surgical or traumatic complications
IV. PART II OF THE CERTIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery EXAMINATION

Purpose: Part II of the Certification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Examination measures the clinical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with an individual’s capability to integrate academics with surgical experience in the specific area of Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery.

Test Specifications: Part II of the Certification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Examination includes oral and computer. Questions will involve diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient pertaining to reconstructive rearfoot and ankle procedures, based upon the following specifications:

1. Clinical scenarios
2. Problem solving (case-based format)
3. Surgical outcomes assessment (credentialing)
4. Perioperative management
5. Decision-making (within standards of care)
6. Is unbiased (regional, individual)
7. Is a practice analysis model
8. Includes clinical application of academics

Examination Content Map

The examination includes both long-format (oral) and Computer Based Patient Simulation (CBPS) case questions. Questions will be based upon patients that fall into one of the following categories:

- Common rearfoot/ankle trauma
- Adult rearfoot/ankle deformities
- Pediatric rearfoot/ankle trauma or deformities
- Surgical or traumatic complications
- Neoplasms or infections
V. SURGICAL IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION

**Purpose:** The Surgical In-training Examination assesses the current level of knowledge of podiatric residents. The examination additionally provides an educational experience to the resident.

**Test Specifications:** The Surgical In-training Examination tests, with an academic emphasis, the clinical knowledge expected to be acquired while participating in a podiatric residency training program. There is a maximum of 125 questions on the examination. Beginning in 2011 the examination may include Computer-based Patient Simulation (CBPS) questions.

### Examination Content Map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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**CBPS Subject Area Content Map**

The questions may include any one of the following areas:

1) Trauma
2) Deformities/Biomechanics
3) Medicine/perioperative management (Infections/metabolic disease/arthritic disorders/emergency Medicine)
4) Complications/Revisions
5) Neoplastic Disorders
6) Neurovascular disorder
7) Congenital disorders/pediatrics
VI. RECERTIFICATION IN FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION

**Purpose:** The Recertification Examination in Foot Surgery measures the clinical surgical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with the maintenance of an acceptable level of practice of foot surgery.

**Test Specifications:** The Recertification Examination in Foot Surgery involves diagnostic and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient encompassing the foot and ankle. Intraoperative technical aspects will include reconstructive and non-reconstructive procedures of the forefoot and non-reconstructive procedures of the rearfoot. Emphasis will be on generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner’s daily practice. There is a maximum of 125 questions on the examination.

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**Examination Content Map**

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VII. RECERTIFICATION IN RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY EXAMINATION

**Purpose:** The Recertification Examination in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery measures the clinical surgical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with the maintenance of an acceptable level of practice.

**Test Specifications:** The Recertification Examination in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery involves diagnostic and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient who requires reconstructive rearfoot and ankle procedures. Emphasis will be on generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner’s daily practice. There is a maximum of 125 questions on the examination.

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VIII. SELF-ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION

Purpose: The Self-assessment Examination assesses current level of knowledge (strengths and weaknesses). The Examination provides an educational experience to the surgeon.

Test Specifications: The self-assessment examination involves diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient encompassing the foot and ankle. Like the recertification examinations, emphasis will be on generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner’s daily practice. However, because the self-assessment examination also serves as an educational tool, newer or more focused content areas may be included. There is a maximum of 125 questions on the examination.

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NOTE: Beginning with the 2012 SAE, the examination will include at least 25% RRA content.
IX. WRITTEN EXAMINATION MAJOR SUBJECT AREA DEFINITIONS

A. Problem-focused History and Physical

History and Physical questions involve the technique, the pertinent elements, and the interpretation of the history and physical exam.

- Questions that ask to interpret findings of the history and physical examination should be included.
- Questions that ask for a diagnosis from a particular examination element should be included.
- Questions that ask for the pertinence of a particular examination should be included.
- Questions that involve non-lower extremity pathology should be moved to the General Medicine category.
- Questions that list multiple findings of a history and physical examination and ask for a diagnosis or differential should be moved to differential diagnosis.
- Questions that pertain to pathoanatomy, pathomechanics, and/or pathophysiology should be included.

B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging

These questions focus on the interpretation of specific studies. They are limited to the diseases, disorders and conditions of the lower extremity. Questions that are not lower extremity oriented should be in the general medicine category. Questions may include laboratory studies, imaging, or other diagnostic studies that will lead to a diagnosis or differential.

- Questions that require a medical management decision should be reclassified to H.
- Questions that require a surgical management decision should be reclassified to F.
- Questions that require a diagnosis from a specific imaging study belong in this category.
- Questions that list findings of a study or studies with no imaging study shown and ask for a diagnosis should be moved to differential diagnosis.

C. Differential Diagnosis

Differential diagnosis questions include any question that asks for a single or differential diagnosis based on multiple elements including history and physical and diagnostic studies. Classification system questions are also included.

- Questions that ask for a diagnosis based on multiple elements belong in this category.
- Questions that require arrival at a specific classification belong in this category.
- Questions that specify a classification system and ask to identify the parameters of that system should be included.
- Questions that list findings of a study or studies with no imaging study shown and ask for a diagnosis should be included.
D. Surgical Principles

Surgical principles focus upon general principles as applied to surgery. Questions may apply to preoperative, intraoperative, or postoperative decision-making or management, but **not as related to a specific procedure**. These principles are standard to all surgical disciplines and applicable to podiatric surgery.

E. Surgical Procedures/Treatment

Questions in this category deal with the intraoperative aspects of **specific** surgical procedures. Typical questions may include items related to 1) anatomy which is encountered and surgically altered; 2) incision placement and dissection technique; 3) orientation of bone cuts; 4) selection and application of fixation devices and bioimplants; 5) placement and fixation of tissue transfers; 6) selection and application of closure materials, drains, and surgical dressings.

- Questions regarding relevant (normal or abnormal) anatomy encountered and surgically altered during the performance of a surgical procedure belong in this category.
- Questions related to complications that are assessed and/or managed intraoperatively are included in this category.

F. Procedural Perioperative Management

Questions in this category are procedure-specific and preoperative or postoperative in nature (not intraoperative).

- Questions that give findings and ask for selection of a specific procedure belong in this category.
- Questions regarding postoperative management of a specific procedure belong in this category.
- The identification and/or management of lower extremity procedure specific postoperative complications should be moved to the complications category.
G. Complications

Questions in this category are limited to postoperative or post-traumatic conditions and must be procedure or injury specific.

- Subject categories are all-inclusive and may deal with diagnosis and/or treatment.
- Questions pertaining to systemic complications should be moved to medicine.
- Questions related to complications that are assessed and/or managed intraoperatively are not included in this category and should be moved to category E-Surgical Procedures.

H. Medicine

Questions include all general medical diagnostics and treatments exclusive of lower extremity pathology.

The category includes the following:

1. Medical Management. Includes diagnosis and treatment of diseases, disorders, and conditions, exclusive of the lower extremity.
2. Interpretation of the history and physical examination and diagnostic studies relating to non-lower extremity pathology belong in this category.
3. Anesthesia. Includes local, regional, spinal, epidural, IV sedation, and general anesthesia topics, including related peri-anesthesia assessment and pharmacologic management.
4. Emergency Medicine. Includes diagnosis and treatment of urgent or emergent diseases, disorders and conditions exclusive of lower extremity.
X. WRITTEN EXAMINATION SUBCATEGORY SUBJECT AREAS

Subject Category

1. Deformities
   a. Acquired digital deformities
   b. Hallux abductovalgus
   c. Hallux limitus
   d. Central metatarsal deformities
   e. Fifth metatarsal deformities
   f. Other common forefoot deformities
   g. Complex/combined forefoot deformities
   h. Common rearfoot deformities
   i. Congenital digital deformities (polydactyly, syndactyly, macrodactyly, overlapping digits)
   j. Congenital forefoot deformities (brachymetatarsia, clawfoot, hallux varus)
   k. Metatarsus adductus/skewfoot
   l. Pes planus
   m. Pes cavus
   n. Clubfoot
   o. Tarsal coalition
   p. Vertical talus
   q. Calcaneovalgus
   r. Equinus deformities
   s. Complex leg/ankle deformities

2. Infections
   a. Soft tissue
   b. Bone/joint
   c. Systemic

3. Neoplasms/Tumors/Masses (primary benign, primary malignant, metastatic)
   a. Soft tissue
   b. Bone

4. Other Conditions
   a. Vascular disorders
   b. Focal neuropathies (entrapments, neuroma, TTS) and RSD
   c. Neuropathic bone, joint, or soft-tissue derangements
   d. Neuromuscular disorders
   e. Arthritic disorders
   f. Metabolic bone disease
   g. Tendinopathies
   h. Other soft-tissue disorders (plantar faciitis)
   i. Nail and dermatologic disorders
   j. Chronic post-traumatic disorders
   k. Osteochondroses/AVN
5. **Acute Trauma**
   a. Digital and sesamoidal fractures/dislocations
   b. Metatarsophalangeal joint dislocations
   c. Metatarsal fractures
   d. Tarsometatarsal fractures/dislocations
   e. Midfoot fractures/dislocations
   f. Rearfoot fractures/dislocations
   g. (1) Ankle fractures
   h. Acute soft-tissue ankle injuries
   i. Acute tendon ruptures/lacerations.
   j. (1) Acute nerve/vascular injury (including compartment syndrome)
   k. (1) Miscellaneous acute trauma (degloving injury, foreign body, gunshot wounds, crush injury, contusions, burns)
   l. Pediatric fractures/growth-plate injuries

6. **Non-Specific**
   a. Joint implants
   b. Fixation devices
   c. Bone grafts/bone substitutes/bone healing
   d. Suture materials
   e. Other
   f. Soft tissue/anchor/skin graft/healing
   g. Anatomy
   h. Medicine (illnesses/therapeutics)
   i. Anesthesia
XI. DISTRIBUTION OF SUBCATEGORY SUBJECT AREAS TO MAJOR SUBJECT AREAS BASED ON EXAMINATION TYPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Subject Area</th>
<th>Foot Surgery</th>
<th>RRA Surgery</th>
<th>Recertification (1)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A – Problem-focused History and Physical</td>
<td>All subcategory subject areas (1)</td>
<td>Red or black (2) subcategory subject areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>B – Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging</td>
<td>All subcategory subject areas (1)</td>
<td>Red or black (2) subcategory subject areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>C – Differential Diagnosis</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D – Surgical Principles</td>
<td>All subcategory subject areas (1)</td>
<td>Red or black (2) subcategory subject areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>E – Surgical Procedures/Techniques</td>
<td>Only blue or black (2) subcategory areas</td>
<td>Red or black (2) subcategory subject areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>F – Procedural Perioperative Management</td>
<td>All subcategory subject areas (1)</td>
<td>Red or black (2) subcategory subject areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>G – Complications</td>
<td>All subcategory subject areas (1)</td>
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<td>G – General Medical</td>
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</table>

(1) RRA subject areas may be tested.
(2) Black subcategory subject areas shall emphasize examination-specific content area.
(3) Subcategory areas designated with (1) will receive less emphasis on the recertification examinations.