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From: Sue A. Weingartner [sweingartner@rmsmanagement.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 2:31 PM

To: MOA AA List Serve

Subject: Protecting Optometry's Future, Part IV



Dear Colleague:

Tuesday night during a webinar presentation to more than 250 state and affiliated optometric association leaders, the AOA released what we believe are the final updates to the Joint Board Certification Project Team (JBCPT) Model and responded to questions. This is the second round of changes since the initial presentation of the JBCPT in late January.



David Cockrell, O.D.

I wanted to restate two key points from the presentation:

- First, with these changes – made at the suggestion of practicing ODs – we believe the model has achieved the objective of being attainable, credible and defensible and look forward to its reception in the AOA House of Delegates.
- Second, in the months since the model was first presented, it is clear that health care reform is moving in the direction we expected it to and feel more convinced than ever that such a move is necessary for the profession.

We have followed through on our commitment to listen to our members. I am happy to say in the months since the model was introduced, we have had a large number of responses to our invitation for comments and suggestions. The changes to the model that are listed below were compiled from comments and requests from the AOA membership and affiliate leadership as well. Thank you very much for your involvement in creating these changes!

Here are the most recent changes:

- A. Change "Board Eligible" to "Board Eligible/Active Candidate Status." The change reflects more current terminology in use in other health professions.
- B. The JBCPT also approved changes to the way points are allocated. To be eligible to take the initial board certification examination, an optometrist must attain 150 points through educational activities.
 - Any Category I Continuing Education with Examination (CEE) *should be credited with two points*. A post-CE test helps assure that a course attendee learned the information being presented.
 - *During the three-year window* from the date on which the American Board of Optometry first accepts applications, there will be a period in which optometrists can be credited

more points than after the three-year period ends:

- A Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry (Clinical) will count as 50 points *regardless of when completed*,
- An Accreditation Council on Optometric Education-accredited residency will count as 150 points *regardless of when completed*,
- A maximum of 75 *Experience-in-Practice Points* will be accrued equal to three points per year of active licensure.

- C. Closed cases and infractions that have been reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank and/or Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank that do not prevent an optometrist from holding an unrestricted license should not be an impediment to board certification.

In March, members of the JBCPT voted to alter the composition and governance of the proposed American Board of Optometry. As previously reported, under the plan, the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) would each have one member on the board. The AOA would have two members, reflecting a frequently stated desire of optometrists that practicing ODs have a meaningful voice on the new organization. A practitioner initially licensed less than five years would represent the American Optometric Student Association. There would be a member of the public on the board, reflecting the importance of ensuring quality care and education that the board would place on its work.

How do we move forward? In order to make the information as clear as possible, we are linking to this letter [a pdf fact sheet](#) that displays the model as it would be adopted for the first three years. This is the framework that will be presented to the House of Delegates next month.

In addition, we have a Web site specifically set up to share resources on the issues of value-driven health care, comments from the profession (including video testimonials) and a digest of the previous messages on board certification. The site is <http://certification.aoa.org>. I urge you to take a look at Dr. Joe Ellis' letter from last week regarding state boards as well as the very timely information on health care reform that was presented by Sen. Max Baucus.

We will continue over the next several weeks and months to keep our membership fully informed on these comments and projected legislation as it occurs, just as we have in the past.

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