The Evaluation of a Didactic Exam Question

During the month of December, 2018, the ABFAS began the item development process for the next foot and ankle surgical recertification examination. The recertification examination will be held in May of 2020 and will include all of the previously mentioned components: Objective Structured Clinical Examination, Objective Structured Assessment of Technical Skills (OSATS), and Medical Knowledge Examination.

The ABFAS Didactic Item Development Process

Item writers individually draft items in specific subject categories to ensure that the item pool is balanced by subject categories. After medical editing, the CEC meets in person to review, edit, and approve items. This is the first stage during which an item may be rejected by the Committee. A few rejected items may be salvaged with re-writes during future item development cycles. The second phase of this cycle consists of two rounds of review and editing where small groups of subject matter experts review, discuss, and edit items. This is the first stage during which an item may be rejected by the original author and staff.

Since 1975, ABFAS’ mission is to protect and improve the health of the foot and ankle. Since 2003, ABFAS has been a national leader in foot and ankle surgery. ABFAS has more than 7,500 Board Certified members. The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) delegated the responsibility to recognize certifying boards in podiatry to the Council. ABFAS has more than 100,000 member physicians to have specialty board certification. And many large medical hospitals require specialty board certification in podiatry.

ABFAS Didactic Item Development Process

1. **Drafting the Item**
   - Item writers individually draft items in specific subject categories to ensure that the item pool is balanced by subject categories.
   - Language and format are checked where the item is sent to the medical editor for grammar, medical terminology, spelling, and item format.

2. **Medical Editing**
   - A professional medical editor reviews and edits all draft items.
   - The editor focuses on grammar, medical terminology, spelling, and item format.

3. **Cycle of Review**
   - The first phase of this cycle consists of two rounds of review and editing where small groups of subject matter experts review, discuss, and edit items.
   - This is the first stage during which an item may be rejected by the original author and staff.

4. **Edit & Review**
   - Item writers individually draft items in specific subject categories to ensure that the item pool is balanced by subject categories.
   - Language and format are checked.

5. **Approval**
   - Item is approved.

6. **Field Testing**
   - Item is field tested and revised based on the feedback.
   - Items are then checked and approved.

7. **Item Ready for Exams**
   - Item is ready for the ABFAS didactic examination.

**ABFAS 2019 Conference List**

Florida Podiatry's Medical Association/Science & Development Symposium
- *February 6-8, 2019*
- Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa, Naples, FL

New York Podiatry's Medical Association/Science & Development Symposium
- *February 12-15, 2019*
- Hyatt Regency Jersey City, Jersey City, NJ

New York Podiatry & Orthotics Symposium
- *February 13-14, 2019*
- New York Marriott Marquis, New York, NY

American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) Scientific Conference
- *February 15-17, 2019*
- Westin Copley Place, Boston, MA

Midwest Podiatric Conference
- *February 13-14, 2019*
- The Westin Southfield Detroit, Southfield, MI

West Michigan Podiatric Conference
- *February 15-16, 2019*
- Doubletree Hotel Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, MI

American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) National Convention
- *February 14-16, 2019*
- Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Schaumburg, IL

Ohio Podiatric Medical Association 63rd Annual Meeting
- *February 14-16, 2019*
- Hyatt Regency Columbus, Columbus, OH

Midwest Podiatric Convention
- *February 15-17, 2019*
- Westin Convention Center, Columbus, OH

New York Podiatry's Medical Association/Science & Development Symposium
- *February 21-23, 2019*
- Westin Southfield Detroit, Southfield, MI

American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) National Convention
- *February 21-23, 2019*
- Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Schaumburg, IL

American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) Scientific Conference
- *February 21-23, 2019*
- Westin Copley Place, Boston, MA

Kingsley Conference
- *February 28-March 1, 2019*
- Ameristar Resort, Laughlin, NV

New York Podiatry's Medical Association/Science & Development Symposium
- *March 20-23, 2019*
- The Novotel Times Square, New York, NY

New York Podiatry & Orthotics Symposium
- *March 21-22, 2019*
- New York Marriott Marquis, New York, NY

American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) National Convention
- *March 21-23, 2019*
- Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Schaumburg, IL

New York Podiatry's Medical Association/Science & Development Symposium
- *March 21-23, 2019*
- Westin Copley Place, Boston, MA

Kingsley Conference
- *March 28-31, 2019*
- Ameristar Resort, Laughlin, NV

ABFAS NEWSLETTER is an executive summary of noteworthy articles. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the content does not necessarily reflect the views of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS).