

March 16, 2020

Judith Manzi, DPM
President
Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards
12116 Flag Harbor Drive
Germantown, MD 20874

Dear Dr. Manzi,

On behalf of the members of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), I thank you and the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards (FPMB) for working hard to ensure minimal disruption to podiatric physicians' state licensure applications. In the national emergency that we find ourselves in, it is imperative that we come together as a podiatric community to work together for the benefit of our patients. To that end, I write to recommend that FPMB urge its member boards to adopt policies that are adaptive to these times, especially as it relates to licensing board rules and policies on continuing education requirements.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and state and federal limitations on gatherings and travel, many of our members are unable to obtain the necessary continuing education contact hours (CECH) to maintain their license. APMA recognizes the value of continuing education, but at the same time, APMA wants to ensure podiatric physicians' medical licenses are not in jeopardy due to the inability to obtain CECH as a result of this unprecedented public health crisis. Therefore, we believe a balance must be struck and we strongly urge FPMB advise its member boards to adopt policies that would allow podiatric physicians additional time or alternative mechanisms to obtain continuing education credit.

One such alternative that we request FPMB urge its member boards to consider is permitting podiatrists to take online continuing education or increase the number of online hours that are allowed to satisfy CECH requirements. As we all heed the warnings of public health officials and engage in social distancing, our members are increasingly turning to online continuing education. Online courses allow podiatric physicians to obtain additional knowledge the same as they would during an in-person conference and at the same time earn CECH.

We thank you, FPMB and your member boards for their efforts to protect the public not only during this public health crisis, but every day. We appreciate your consideration of our requests and if you need additional information, please contact APMA's Director for Center for Professional Advocacy Chad Appel, JD at clappel@apma.org or (301) 581-9234.

Sincerely,



David G. Edwards, DPM
President