

Certification Examination for Orthopedic Physician Assistants



Candidate Handbook 2023

Administered by:



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This Handbook contains necessary information about the Certification Examination for Orthopedic Physician Assistants. Please retain it for future reference. Candidates are responsible for reading these instructions carefully. This Handbook is subject to change.

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Professional Testing Corporation (PTC) www.ptcny.com (212) 356-0660</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for examination • Obtain general application policy and procedure information • Obtain information about testing policies and procedures • Transfer to a new testing period • Request Special Accommodations • Request Hand Score • Question about score reports • Miscellaneous inquiries |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Prometric www.prometric.com/NBCOPA (800) 741-0934</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule test appointment • Reschedule test appointment (within a testing period) • Cancel test appointment • Find directions to test site • Questions regarding testing sites and appointments |
| <p style="text-align: center;">National Board for Certification of Orthopedic Physician's Assistants (NBCOPA) www.nbcopa.org</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study references • State credentialing information • Recertification information |

ATTENTION CANDIDATES

This handbook contains necessary information about the NBCOPA Certification Examination for Orthopedic Physician Assistants. It is required reading for those applying for and taking the Examination. All individuals applying for the examination must comply with the policies, procedures, and deadlines in this Handbook and attest to this by signing the Candidate Attestation found on the application. Please retain this handbook for future reference. This handbook is subject to change. See www.ptcny.com for handbook updates.

ACCESSING CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT ANY TIME WHILE YOU ARE TAKING THE EXAM IS PROHIBITED. YOU CAN ONLY REMOVE SNACKS, DRINKS, MEDICINE OR PERSONAL HEALTHCARE ITEMS FROM YOUR LOCKER- NO BACKPACKS, BAGS, POCKETBOOKS OR CLOTHING CAN BE REMOVED WHILE YOUR EXAM IS IN SESSION.

PURPOSES OF CERTIFICATION

The National Board for Certification of Orthopedic Physician Assistants (NBCOPA) endorses the concept of voluntary, periodic certification by examination for physician assistant/orthopedic assistants working primarily in orthopedics. The certification process is designed to promote excellence in the practice of orthopedics by:

1. Recognizing formally those individuals who meet all the requirements of the NBCOPA.
2. Encouraging professional growth of assistants in orthopedics.
3. Establishing and measuring the level of knowledge required for certification as an orthopedic physician assistant/orthopedic assistant.
4. Providing a standard of requisite knowledge required for certification, thereby assisting employers, the public, and members of health professions in the assessment of the orthopedic physician assistant/orthopedic assistants.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All candidates must be legal US residents at the time of application and testing. It is highly recommended that candidates have at least two years of college work in sciences before sitting for the Certification Examination for Orthopedic Physician Assistants/Orthopedic Assistants.

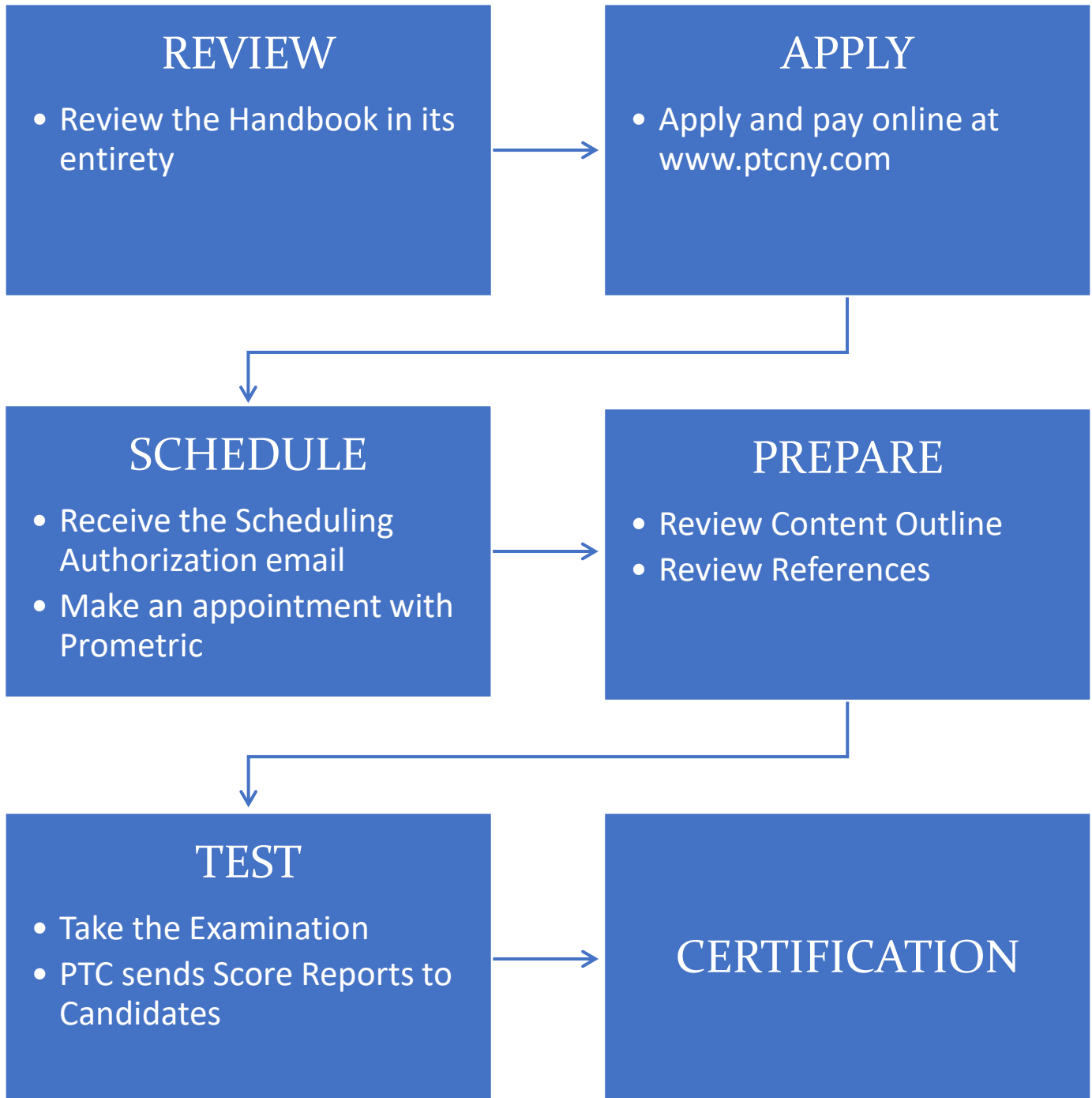
1. a. Completion of an orthopedic physician assistant program, a primary care physician assistant program, or a nurse practitioner program*,
OR
b. Completion of a master's level program in orthopedic assisting*
OR
c. Completion of a related allied health care program AND at least FIVE years of experience in orthopedic work with responsibility in surgical assisting, history and physical assessment, and immobilization techniques, under the supervision of a Board-certified orthopedic surgeon*.

* All applications must include Program completion certificates and/or Diplomas.

NOTE: A supervising Board-certified orthopedic surgeon must verify this eligibility and sign the Supervising Physician's Statement on the candidate's Application.

2. Completion and filing of Application and the required fee for the Certification Examination for Orthopedic Physician Assistants/Orthopedic Assistants.
3. Agreement to adhere to the following NBCOPA Code of Ethics:
 - a. Pledge to render service to humanity with full regard to the patient.
 - b. Pledge to safeguard all confidential information regarding a patient and NBCOPA unless required to divulge such information by law.
 - c. Pledge to uphold the principles and policies of NBCOPA.
 - d. Pledge to strive continually to gain professional knowledge and experience so as to provide better health care to patients, physicians, and the community served.

THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS



COMPLETION OF APPLICATION

Candidates must complete the examination application in full, using your first and last name exactly as it appears on your current government issued photo ID such as a driver's license or a passport. The completed application, with all documentation (if required), must be submitted and paid for online at www.ptcny.com/test-sponsors/nbcopa.

ELIGIBILITY AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION: All questions must be answered. Mark only one response unless otherwise indicated. If you have completed one of the following programs use the appropriate code from the list below on the application:

- 103 – Orthopedic Physician Assistant Programs
- 200 – Primary Care Physician Assistant Programs
- 300 – Surgical Assistant Programs
- 400 – Athletic Trainer Programs
- 450 – Nurse Practitioner Programs
- 500 – University of St. Augustine Master of Orthopaedic Assistant Program
- 550 – Military

SUPERVISING BOARD CERTIFIED ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT: Your supervising board certified orthopedic surgeon must verify your eligibility and experience and complete and sign the supervising physician's statement. No candidate will be accepted for the examination without a completed and signed Supervising Physician's Statement. Be sure the signature, title, license number, address, and telephone number of your supervisor are included. Attestation Statements must be uploaded with your application.

PROGRAM COMPLETION CERTIFICATES AND / DIPLOMA: Please upload copies if you are applying via category 1.a. b. or c. eligibility (see ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS on page 3).

Payment is due at the time of application. All applications will be reviewed for eligibility once payment is received. Candidates found to be ineligible or incomplete applications will be refunded their examination fee minus a \$75.00 administrative fee.

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULING

The Certification Examination for Orthopedic Physician Assistants is administered on an ongoing basis, Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays, at computer-based testing facilities managed by Prometric.

Scheduling Authorization

PTC will send approved candidates an email called the Scheduling Authorization. These emails are sent out about 11 weeks before the first day of the testing window. The emails come from notices@ptcny.com. Candidates cannot make an appointment until they receive a scheduling authorization. If you don't receive your email 3 weeks before the start of your testing window, contact PTC.

Scheduling Examination Appointments

The Scheduling Authorization will indicate how to schedule your examination appointment with Prometric as well as the dates during which testing is available. Appointment times are first-come, first-served, so schedule your appointment as soon as you receive your Scheduling Authorization in order to maximize your chance of testing at your preferred location and on your preferred date. **Candidates who wait until the last minute run the risk of missing out on their preferred date, time, and testing center. Candidates unable to schedule an appointment will forfeit their fees.**



After you make your test appointment, Prometric will send you a confirmation email with the date, time, and location of your exam. Please check this confirmation carefully for the correct date, time, and location. Contact Prometric at (800) 741-0934 if you do not receive this email confirmation or if there is a mistake with your appointment.

Note: International candidates may also schedule, reschedule, or cancel an appointment online at www.prometric.com/NBCOPA.

Choosing a Testing Date

NBCOPA Examination candidates have 3 months from the date of application to take the exam. Keep the following in mind:

1. Give yourself enough time to study. Practice tests are offered at www.ptcny.com.
2. Emergencies happen. Schedule early to allow enough time to reschedule within your window if need be. Please see Page 5 for information on rescheduling a test appointment.

IMPORTANT!

You **MUST** present your current driver's license, passport, or U.S. military ID at the test center. Expired, temporary, or paper driver's licenses will **NOT** be accepted.

The name on your Scheduling Authorization **MUST** exactly match the name on your photo ID.

Fees will not be refunded for exams missed because of invalid ID.

Rescheduling Examination Appointments within a Testing Period

Candidates can reschedule their examination appointments within the same testing period as long as the request is submitted within the timeframe described below. Reschedule within the permitted time frame by calling or going to the Prometric website: www.prometric.com/NBCOPA

| Time Frame | Reschedule Permitted? | Stipulations |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Requests submitted 30 days or more before the original appointment | Yes | None |
| Requests submitted 29 to 5 days before the original appointment | Yes | Candidate must pay Prometric a rescheduling fee of \$50. |
| Requests submitted less than 5 days before the original appointment | No | Candidates who do not arrive to test for their appointment will be considered a no-show and all their examinations fees will be forfeited. Candidates will need to reapply and pay full examination fees for a future testing period. |



Candidates are not permitted to transfer to a new testing period. Candidates unable to test during their assigned 3-month testing period will need to reapply for the examination and pay a new application fee.

Failing to Report for an Examination

If you fail to report for an examination, you will forfeit all fees paid to take the examination. A completed application form and examination fee are required to reapply for the examination.

EXAMINATION FEES

| Fee Type | Amount | Details |
|--|-------------|--|
| Initial Certification Fee | US \$450.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-refundable • Non-transferable • Includes testing center fees • Includes non-refundable \$75.00 administrative fee |
| Recertification by Exam (OPA-C or OA-C) | US \$350.00 | |
| Rescheduling Fee (29-5 days prior to scheduled appointment; see page 7) | US \$50.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to candidates who need to move their appointment within their current testing period • Payable directly to Prometric • Reschedule with Prometric online or over the phone |



- **There will be no refund of fees unless applicants are ineligible for the examination.**
- **Ineligible candidates will be refunded their fees minus an administrative fee.**
- **No refunds will be issued for applying for the incorrect examination or testing period, for failing to make an examination appointment, or for failing to appear at your scheduled appointment.**

Please be advised: Prometric does not have the authority to grant transfers to another testing period or refunds.

TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

NBCOPA and PTC support the intent of and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). PTC will take steps reasonably necessary to make certification accessible to persons with disabilities covered under the ADA. According to the ADA, an individual with a disability is a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity (such as seeing, hearing, learning, reading, concentrating, walking) or a major bodily function (such as neurological, endocrine, or digestive system). The information you provide and any documentation regarding your disability and test accommodations will be held in strict confidence.

All approved testing accommodations must maintain the psychometric nature and security of the examination. Accommodations that fundamentally alter the nature or security of the exam will not be granted.

Testing arrangements may be made upon receipt of the application, examination fee, and a completed and signed Request for Test Accommodations Form, available from www.ptcny.com or by calling PTC at (212) 356-0660.

This form must be uploaded with the online application no later than 8 weeks prior to the start of your chosen testing period. Candidates who do not submit their Test Accommodations Form with their application may not be able to test during their chosen testing period and therefore be subject to rescheduling or transfer fees.

Only those requests made and received on the official Request for Test Accommodations Form will be reviewed. Letters from doctors and other healthcare professionals must be accompanied by the official form and will not be accepted without the form. All requests must be made at the time of application. Accommodations cannot be added to an existing exam appointment.

Please do not go to www.prometric.com or contact Prometric to request test accommodations as they are not authorized to approve accommodations. All requests for test accommodations must be submitted on the PTC Request Form.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

- Check your government issued photo ID (driver's license, passport or U.S. Military ID) when you make your examination appointment. Is it expired? Does the first and last name on your ID match the name on your Scheduling Authorization email? Proctors at the Prometric testing center will refuse admission to candidates with expired IDs, IDs with names that do not match their records, and temporary paper IDs. Candidates will be marked as no-shows and will forfeit their exam fees.
- Check your PTC Scheduling Authorization email and Appointment Confirmation email from Prometric to make sure everything is accurate (i.e. your name, exam name, appointment date, time and location).
- Make yourself familiar with the location of your chosen testing site and any requirements they may have for parking and check the weather and traffic conditions before you leave for the testing center. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to arrive as late arrival may prevent you from testing.
- In the event of inclement weather, check the Prometric website for site closures: <https://www.prometric.com/closures>
- Prometric's website provides information on what you can expect on your test day, including a walkthrough of check in and security procedures: <https://www.prometric.com/test-center-security>.
- This Handbook provides the Content Outline for the Examination (see appendix). Use this to help you start studying for the examination.
- Review What to Expect at the Test Center and Rules for the Examination on the next pages before your appointment.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE TESTING CENTER

PTC has partnered with Prometric Testing Centers to deliver examinations to candidates. Here is what you can expect when you arrive at your Prometric Testing Center.

- Candidate Check-In
 - Candidates will be asked to present their IDs
 - Candidates will be asked to empty and turn out their pockets
 - Candidates will be “wanded” or asked to walk through a metal detector
 - Inspection of eyeglasses, jewelry, and other accessories will be conducted. Jewelry other than wedding and engagement rings is prohibited.
 - Religious headwear may be worn into the testing room; however, it may be subject to inspection by a testing center administrator before entry into the testing room is permitted.
 - Prometric provides lockers for candidates to store their purses, mobile phones, jackets, food, drinks and medical supplies.

- During the Exam
 - No breaks are scheduled during the exam. Candidates who must leave the testing room to take a break will not be given extra time on the exam
 - Candidates are only permitted to leave the testing room to use the restroom or access food, drink, or medicine from their assigned locker
 - Candidates who take an unscheduled break are subject to additional security screenings before being permitted to reenter the testing room
 - Accessing mobile phones, study materials, or anything other than food, drink, or medicine during the examination is prohibited
 - Smoking is prohibited at the testing center
 - All examinations are monitored and may be recorded in both audio and video format

Please keep in mind: other exams will be administered at the same time as your examination. Therefore, examinees may hear ambient noises such as typing, coughing, or people entering and exiting the testing room that cannot be avoided. Prometric is unable to provide a completely noise-free environment. However, headphones may be requested to minimize impact.

Please see [Prometric’s website](#) for more information about what to expect on testing day.

RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION

Please read the information below carefully. You are responsible for adhering to the examination rules while at the testing center.

- ⇒ You must present your current driver's license, passport, or US Military ID at the testing center. Candidates without valid ID will NOT be permitted to test. Temporary or paper copies of your ID will not be accepted.
- ⇒ Cell phones, watches, and all other electronic devices are strictly prohibited at the testing center. Please leave these items in your car or in your assigned locker at the testing center. You may NOT access your cell phone, electronic devices, or study materials from your locker at any time.
- ⇒ No papers, books, or reference materials may be accessed during a break at a locker, taken into or removed from the testing room.
- ⇒ You may ONLY access snacks, drinks, medicines or personal healthcare items from your locker.
- ⇒ No questions concerning content of the examination may be asked during the examination session. The candidate should read carefully the directions that are provided on screen at the beginning of the examination session.
- ⇒ Candidates are prohibited from leaving the testing room while their examination is in session, with the exception of going to the restroom or accessing their locker for food, drink, or medicine only.
- ⇒ Bulky clothing, such as sweatshirts (hoodies), jackets, coats, and hats (except hats worn for religious reasons), and most types of jewelry may not be worn while taking the examination. Proctors will ask you to remove such items and place them in your locker. Please see [Prometric's statement on Test Center Security](#) for more information.
- ⇒ All watches, including fitness/smart watches and similar devices, cannot be worn during the examination.
- ⇒ No food/beverages are permitted inside the testing room. Leave these items in your assigned locker.



Contact PTC at (212) 356-0660 or www.ptcny.com/contact with any questions about the Examination Rules.

Irregular or improper behavior that is observed, made apparent by statistical analysis, or uncovered by other means before, during or after the examination will be considered a violation of these rules and may constitute grounds for invalidation of a candidate's examination. NBCOPA will initiate an investigation and request suitable analyses and appropriate documentation.

TESTING CONDITIONS OR EXAMINATION FEEDBACK

Any candidate who feels that the examination effort was negatively impacted by the test center conditions should notify the proctor immediately. The situation should also be reported to PTC at www.ptcny.com/contact within 15 business days of the test appointment. Any comments about the test itself should also be reported to PTC at www.ptcny.com/contact within 15 business days of the test appointment.

REPORT OF RESULTS

Candidates will be notified via email by PTC within 2-3 weeks after PTC receives examination data from Prometric whether they have passed or failed the examination. Scores on the major areas of the examination and on the total examination will be reported.

REQUESTING A HANDSCORE

Candidates who fail the examination may request a hand scoring of their data file. Hand scoring is a manual check of the data file by the testing service to determine if there have been any errors in scoring. Although the probability of such an error is extremely remote, this service is available. Requests for hand scoring must be received by PTC no later than 90 days after the date of the examination by completing and returning the Request of Handscore form on www.ptcny.com with payment of \$25. Candidates who fail the examination will not be permitted to see the examination questions. For reasons of test security, no candidate is allowed to review the examination or any of its items.

To ensure correct reporting of results, PTC automatically performs handscores of examinations of candidates who score within 3 points of passing as a quality control measure. Thus, it is extremely doubtful that any examination results will change from “fail” to “pass” through handscoreing.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXAMINATION SCORES

The National Board for Certification of Orthopedic Physician Assistants will release the individual test scores only to the individual candidate. Individual scores will NOT be sent to employers, educational institutions, school/programs, etc. under any circumstances. Any questions concerning test results should be referred to NBCOPA.

REEXAMINATION

The Certification Examination Orthopedic Physician Assistants / Orthopedic Assistants may be taken as often as desired, upon filing of a new Application and fee. There is no limit to the number of times the examination may be repeated.

ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION

Candidates who pass the Certification Examination may use OPA-C (for Orthopedic Physician Assistant-Certified) or OA-C (Orthopedic Assistant - Certified) after their name and will receive certificates from NBCOPA.

Certification as an Orthopedic Physician Assistant/Orthopedic Assistant is recognized for a period of four years at which time the candidate must either retake and pass the current Certification Examination or meet continuing education requirements in effect at that time in order to retain certification.

Disclaimer

State Statutes provide the basic guidelines that recognize Allied Health Professionals in their respective states. Medical institutions credentialing committees interpret these statutes. These committees with surgeon support, based on their interpretations, decide what privileges to grant individuals applying for employment in their respective institutions. The NBCOPA examination is a National Certification Examination. It is your responsibility as a passing candidate of this examination to insure you meet the requirements of your respective State and Institutional Credentialing Committee when applying for medical privileges within your place of employment.

REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION

Certification will be revoked for either of the following reasons:

1. Falsification of Application.
2. Misrepresentation of certification status.
3. Failure to adhere to NBCOPA Code of Ethics.

CONTENT OF THE EXAMINATION

The Certification Examination for Orthopedic Physician Assistants/Orthopedic Assistants is a computer based examination composed of a maximum of 250 multiple-choice, objective questions with a total testing time of four (4) hours.

The questions for the examination are developed by individuals with expertise in orthopedics and are reviewed for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by representatives of NBCOPA. The NBCOPA, with the advice and assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation, prepares the examination. The Certification Examination for Orthopedic Physician Assistants / Orthopedic Assistants will be weighted in approximately the following manner:

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| I. | Anatomy and Physiology | 15% |
| II. | Musculoskeletal Conditions | 30% |
| III. | Orthopedic History and Physical Examination | 15% |
| IV. | Imaging and Laboratory Studies | 10% |
| V. | Treatment of Musculoskeletal Conditions | 30% |

I. ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

A. Skeletal

1. Bones
 - a. Structure
 - 1) Composition
 - 2) Special Anatomic Configurations
 - a) Fossa
 - b) Foramen
 - c) Condyle
 - d) Trochanter
 - e) Crest
 - f) Spinous Process
 - g) Tuberosity
 - h) Other
 - 3) Growth
 - 4) Coverings
 - 5) Blood Supply
 - b. Types
 - 1) Long Bones
 - 2) Short Bones
 - 3) Flat Bones
 - 4) Irregular Shaped Bones
 - c. Functions
 - 1) Support
 - 2) Protection
2. Joints
 - a. Structure
 - 1) Cartilage
 - a) Articular
 - b) Meniscal
 - c) Other
 - 2) Ligaments
 - 3) Synovia
 - 4) Joint Fluid
 - b. Types
 - 1) Ball and Socket
 - 2) Hinge
 - 3) Gliding
 - 4) Other
 - c. Functions
 - 1) Flexion and Extension
 - 2) Abduction and Adduction
 - 3) Rotation and Circumduction
 - 4) Supination and Pronation
 - 5) Inversion and Eversion
 - 6) Other

B. Neuromuscular

1. Muscles
 - a. Structure
 - 1) Belly
 - 2) Tendons
 - 3) Origins and Insertions
 - b. Types
 - c. Location
 - d. Actions
2. Nerves
 - a. Structure
 - 1) Central
 - 2) Peripheral
 - b. Location
 - c. Function

II. MUSCULOSKELETAL CONDITIONS

A. Trauma

1. Fractures and Dislocations
 - a. Open
 - b. Closed
2. Soft Tissue Injuries
3. Complications

B. Disorders

1. Upper Extremities
2. Lower Extremities
3. Spine
 - a. Cervical
 - b. Thoracic
 - c. Lumbar
 - d. Sacrum and Coccyx

C. Diseases

1. Neuromuscular
2. Skeletal
3. Deficiency
4. Blood Dyscrasias
5. Systemic

D. Joint Conditions

1. Arthritic
 - a. Degenerative
 - b. Inflammatory
 - c. Posttraumatic
2. Soft Tissue
 - a. Inflammatory
 - b. Attritional
3. Congenital

- E. Infections
 - 1. Acute
 - 2. Chronic
 - 3. Periprosthetic
- F. Neoplasms
 - 1. Malignant
 - 2. Benign
- G. Muscle, Ligament, Tendon, and Cartilage Conditions

III. ORTHOPEDIC HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

- A. Present Illness
 - 1. Symptoms
 - 2. Cause
 - 3. Duration
 - 4. Prior Treatment
 - 5. Changes Since Onset
 - 6. Present Medical Status
- B. Patient History
 - 1. Serious Illness
 - 2. Surgery
 - 3. Hospitalizations
 - 4. Similar Conditions or Broken Bones
 - 5. Congenital Problems
 - 6. Present Medications
 - 7. Activities of Daily Living
 - 8. Alignment
- C. Family History
- D. Physical Examination
 - 1. Observation
 - a. Gait
 - b. Swelling
 - c. Deformities and Scarring
 - d. Stature and Posture
 - e. Nutritional Status
 - f. Muscular Development
 - g. Amputations
 - h. Other
 - 2. Manual Examination
 - a. Palpation
 - b. Range of Motion
 - c. Stability
 - d. Strength
 - e. Neurological
 - f. Circulation

IV. IMAGING AND LABORATORY STUDIES

- A. Imaging
 - 1. Roentgenography
 - a. Routine
 - b. Tomography
 - c. Computerized Axial Tomography
 - 2. Magnetic Resonance Imaging
 - 3. Nuclear Studies
 - 4. Ultrasonography
 - 5. Special Diagnostic Procedures
 - a. Arthrography
 - b. Fluoroscopy
 - c. Venography
 - d. Other
 - 6. Findings
- B. Laboratory Studies
 - 1. Urine
 - 2. Blood
 - 3. Synovial Fluid
 - 4. Cultures
- C. Other Diagnostic Procedures

V. TREATMENT OF MUSCULOSKELETAL CONDITIONS

- A. Nonsurgical
 - 1. Casting
 - a. Indications
 - b. Types
 - 1) Plaster
 - 2) Fiberglass and Other Synthetics
 - c. Anatomical Site
 - 1) Upper Extremity
 - 2) Lower Extremity
 - 3) Body
 - d. Application and Procedures
 - 1) Preparation
 - 2) Padding
 - 3) Special Considerations
 - 4) Removal
 - e. Duration of Treatments
 - f. Complications
 - 2. Supportive and Assistive Devices
 - a. Taping, Strapping, Bandages
 - b. Splints and Braces
 - 1) Static
 - 2) Dynamic
 - 3) Prefabricated
 - 4) Custom

- c. Ambulatory, Assistive Devices (Crutches, Walkers, Canes)
 - 3. Traction
 - 4. Physical Therapy and Exercise/Continuous Passive Motion
 - 5. Complications
 - 6. Other
- B. Pharmacologic
 - 1. Types, Functions, and Side Effects
 - a. Analgesics
 - b. Muscle Relaxants
 - c. Antibiotics
 - d. Steroids
 - e. Anticoagulants
 - f. Anti-inflammatories
 - g. Vasoconstrictors
 - h. Antiemetics
 - 2. Administration
 - a. Oral
 - b. Parenteral
 - 1) Intravenous Including Patient controlled Analgesia
 - 2) Intramuscular
 - 3) Subcutaneous
 - 4) Regional
 - c. Other
 - 3. Interactions
 - a. Other Drugs
 - b. Disease Conditions
- C. Surgical
 - 1. Indications
 - 2. Preoperative Planning and Care
 - 3. Types of Procedures
 - a. Reduction
 - 1) Fractures
 - 2) Dislocations
 - b. Reconstruction
 - 1) Arthroplasty
 - a) Replacement

- b) Interpositional
 - 2) Ligaments
 - 3) Digits
 - 4) Fusion
 - c. Repair
 - 1) General
 - 2) Reimplantation
 - d. Removal
 - 1) Amputation
 - 2) Foreign bodies
 - 3) Other
 - e. Wound care
 - 1) Traumatic
 - 2) Elective
 - f. Diagnosis
 - 1) Arthroscopy
 - 2) Other
- 4. Intraoperative Management
 - a. Positioning
 - b. Anesthesia
 - c. Incision
 - d. Equipment
 - 1) Instrumentation
 - 2) Implants
 - 3) Sutures
 - 4) Other
 - e. Sterilization Procedures
- 5. Postoperative Management
 - a. Immediate
 - b. Hospital
 - c. Long Term
- 6. Complications
- D. Patient Education
- E. Documentation
- F. Infection Control
- G. Safety
- H. Medicolegal

SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

In the following questions, choose the one best answer.

1. What are the three groups of bones in the hand?

1. Ulnar, radius, and metacarpals
2. Carpals, metacarpals, and phalanges
3. Metatarsals, carpals, and phalanges
4. Phalanges, tarsals, and metatarsals

2. A deforming force which makes reduction of a Bennett's fracture difficult is the pull of the

1. flexor pollicis longus.
2. extensor pollicis brevis.
3. abductor pollicis longus.
4. adductor pollicis longus.

3. Anterior wedging and kyphosis are common x-ray findings in

1. osteoporosis.
2. osteosarcoma.
3. osteopetrosis.
4. osteomalacia.

4. Reflex sympathetic dystrophy is typically characterized by

1. hemorrhage.
2. tissue swelling.
3. excessive joint mobility.
4. pain out of proportion for injury.

5. An acute closed mallet finger is most appropriately treated by

1. central slip release.
2. operative repair of the tendon.
3. hyperextension splint for distal interphalangeal joint.
4. transarticular Kirschner wire across distal interphalangeal joint.

| ANSWER KEY | |
|---------------|---|
| Q | A |
| 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 |

ONLINE PRACTICE TEST

WHAT IT IS: A practice test to provide candidates with a better understanding of what the actual certification examination is like. The practice test consists of 75 questions, has a testing time of two hours, and is taken over the internet.

WHY TAKE IT: To experience taking a computerized exam, to review an example of the type of content included in the Certification Examination, and to learn more about question format, style, and level of difficulty.

SCORE REPORT: After completing the online practice test, you will receive an instant score report showing test performance in each of the content areas. The score report does not provide correct answers or indicate which questions were answered correctly or incorrectly. Once the practice test is scored, you cannot return to the test to review the questions.

NOTE: The online practice test is an optional tool candidates may use as they prepare for the certification examination. While the practice test may help candidates identify areas of strengths and weakness, it should not be used as the only means to determine candidate preparedness or readiness to test. Since the practice test is NOT intended to be a study guide nor the sole source of preparation for the actual certification examination, candidates are NOT provided with the answer key, rationales for each question, nor notification of which specific items were answered correctly or incorrectly.

Though the specific questions that are on the practice test will not appear on the actual certification examination, it allows candidates to become familiar with the style of questions that may be asked. The instant score report received after practice test submission shows overall test performance as well as performance in each of the content areas. Candidates may find this information useful in determining future study needs. Once the practice test is scored, candidates cannot return to the test to review the questions. Performance on the practice test does not guarantee similar performance on the actual certification examination.

The PTC Online Testing System does not demonstrate the testing software used during the certification examinations. Those who purchase the online practice test should be aware that they will use a different testing platform when they take certification examinations at designated proctored testing centers.

The practice test is not a requirement for certification eligibility nor does it contribute in any way to success on the certification examination. There are many ways candidates should prepare for the certification examination. Candidates should use a variety of resources and consider their own education and experiences. Review the content outline and reference materials listed in the handbook for additional exam-related information.

CONTENT INCLUDED IN THE ONLINE PRACTICE TEST FOR ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

- I. Anatomy and Physiology
- II. Musculoskeletal Conditions
- III. Orthopedic History and Physical Examination
- IV. Imaging and Laboratory Studies
- V. Treatment of Musculoskeletal Conditions

FEE: \$75, payable by credit card online.

APPLY: Go to www.ptcny.com

REFERENCES

The following references may be of some help in preparing for the examination. The list does not attempt to include all acceptable references nor is it suggested that the examination questions are necessarily based on these references.

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Wolfe, S.W. (2011). *Green's operative hand surgery* (6th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Churchill Livingstone.

You may also use these websites for more information:

Wheeless' Textbook of Orthopaedics

<http://www.wheelessonline.com/>

Orthopedic Surgery Articles at Medscape

http://emedicine.medscape.com/orthopedic_surgery

iMedicalApps – Mobile medicine

<http://www.imedicalapps.com/>

AO Surgery Reference

<http://aosurgery.org>

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

<http://www.aaos.org>

The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery

<http://www.jbjs.org>

PTC22027



NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN'S ATTESTATION STATEMENT

Candidate's Name: _____

Candidate's Address: _____

Being board certified and a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, I fully understand my responsibility as a supervising physician to this candidate. I hereby certify that I have read and understand the eligibility requirements for the Certification Examination for Orthopedic Physician Assistants. I acknowledge and attest that this candidate is an Orthopedic Physician Assistant and has a minimum of five years of orthopedic experience in surgical assisting, history and physical assessment, casting, and immobilization techniques.

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| Name: | Signature: |
| Title: | State Lic. Number: |
| Institution: | Phone: |
| Address: | Email: |