

CERTIFICATION UPDATE

COA Examination

JCAHPO received valuable feedback from educational programs and ophthalmic community members related to the proposed COA certification exam redesign. The input we received regarding the scope of COA test content has been an invaluable tool in helping to refocus specific areas of professional concentration. Data from our previous job task analysis (JTA) indicated that a large portion of an assistant's day was comprised of tasks related to office administration and communication.

JCAHPO will focus exclusively on testing tasks that require technical knowledge and skill. In order to verify the level of medical science-related content, a new JTA is currently underway. The survey will be completed in the coming months with the release of an updated COA exam in August 2009. JCAHPO expects the revised COA exam content to closely resemble the current certification examination, allowing for an easy, straightforward transition into next year.

Occasionally, we receive inquiries regarding continuing education credits that are related to communication or career development. To maintain organization and quality control, only continuing education credit for content related to medical science will receive JCAHPO Group A or B credit approval. Topics outside the range of technical knowledge and skill, not related to medical science, are not eligible.

ROUB *Effective Immediately*

A sponsoring physician or a sponsoring ophthalmologist may sign ROUB certification and recertification applications.

B-Scan Certification

Effective in 2008

JCAHPO will soon release a B-scan certification examination. This exam was previously offered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Examination content areas are: Anatomy and Physiology, Biometry, Examination Techniques, Instrumentation, Pathology, and Physics. Eligibility requirements, exam fees, and credential information will be released at a later date. If you are interested in receiving exam update information as it becomes available, please notify the Certification Department.

NEW COMT Performance Test

In the January issue of *Eye Lights* we announced that the development of a computer-simulated COMT Performance Test for the assessment of a candidate's knowledge and skills will be released in 2009. Accordingly, the next Full Performance Test, scheduled for September 20th, 2008, will be the last chance for new candidates to take the hands-on Performance Test. For new candidates, the scheduled fall exam date will be the final opportunity for Performance Test certification until August 2009 when the computer-simulated version is released and implemented as part JCAHPO's standard for COMT certification requirements.

The current Performance Test evaluates eleven tasks. The new simulation will address five essential job tasks highlighted in JCAHPO's most recent Job Task Analysis.

The computer-simulation criteria will be grouped in the following categories:

- Strabismus and prism measurement
- Versions and duction
- Pupil evaluation
- Photography
- Lensometry with identification and measurement of prisms

Currently, COMT program graduates do not take the Skill Evaluation. The release of the new Performance Test Simulation will require all COMT candidates to pass the COT Skill Evaluation, in addition to the COMT written and computer-simulated Performance Simulation.

The new COMT Performance Test simulation will:

- Increase the number of convenient testing locations
- Allow for year-round examination delivery
- Eliminate extensive travel costs
- Reduce turn-around time for processing results
- Deliver a consistent and objective standardized exam, without the need for patient involvement

Be sure to check www.jcahpo.org regularly for updates regarding the new simulation release, or contact the Certification Department for additional information.