

## Frequently Asked Questions – Specialist Certification: Sports

- **How do I fulfill the Emergency Care requirements for certification?**

Please pay special attention to the information for CPR Certification & Emergency Medical Response (EMR) outlined in the “Minimum Eligibility Requirements” document, and the minimal standards for the EMR course are outlined in the “Requirements for EMR Certification Course” document. Both documents are available at the ABPTS website.

- **How is the examination managed?**

The clinical specialization examinations are overseen by the Specialty Council of each respective specialty area. The Council works in direct relationship with the ABPTS and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), and is responsible for the management of all aspects of specialty application and the examination.

The SCS examination questions are developed and reviewed through numerous stages, which includes many content experts who possess Sports Clinical Specialization. All examination questions are supported with peer-reviewed resources, and scrutinized thoroughly in their development and performance, by members of the Council, item writers/reviewers, content experts, and the NBME.

- **How should I prepare for the SCS examination?**

Please closely review the *Description of Specialty Practice (DSP): Sports Physical Therapy*, as the distribution of examination questions from the key DSP content areas will match this information. It is recommended to use all professional resources related to these topic areas, including but not limited to the following: peer-reviewed journals, textbooks, and professional association resources.

- **Should I enroll in a SCS preparation course?**

The Specialty Council recommends taking continuing education courses that are directly aligned with contemporary sports physical therapy practice as outlined by the *Description of Specialty Practice*. The Sports Specialty Council cannot guarantee that any preparation course will provide optimal preparation for the SCS examination.

- **Is there a preparation course that is recommended?**

The Specialty Council, sports examination item writers, and content experts do not endorse or participate in any preparation course due to the potential for conflict of interest.

- **How do I calculate direct patient care hours when determining eligibility?**

Direct Patient Care hours are estimates of your patient population who would be classified as an “athlete” – recreational or competitive. This estimate is scrutinized by the Sports specialty Council.

- **What is the “scope of practice” for a physical therapist with an SCS?**

A physical therapist with an “SCS” designation is only allowed to practice within the scope of practice according to his or her state practice act for a physical therapist. An SCS designation does not grant the physical therapist any additional rights or privileges.

- **Am I allowed to provide athletic venue coverage as a Sports Clinical Specialist?**

Coverage of athletic venues is dictated by the state practice acts of a physical therapist’s state of licensure and physical location. The SCS credential does not necessarily allow a physical therapist to cover athletic venues. A physical therapist may be required to have additional certification as an Emergency Medical Responder or certified athletic trainer in order to provide direct venue coverage.