



**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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Additions to Residency Standards Approved

Alexandria, VA – The National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) announces that its board of directors has approved amendments to the residency standards. The changes approved to the residency standards pertain to the supervision of resident practitioners and the use of a centralized application service. The new standards will take effect on July 1, 2017. Any program that applies for initial or continuing accreditation on or after July 1, 2017 will need to meet these new standards.

The proposed changes to the standards were made available for public comment in the fall of 2016 and the responses provided had a high percentage of agreement from the constituents that elected to provide input. The principle changes include the more explicit language defining the supervision of resident practitioners modeled after the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics Scope of Practice. Additionally, residency programs will be required to use the Orthotic and Prosthetic Residency Centralized Application Service (OPRESCAS), a tool that enables prospective residents and residency programs to connect and facilitate the placement of residents.

The NCOPE board of directors' decision to amend the standards was based upon the following rationale:

- Given the advancement of technology and evolving models of care delivery, there was a clear need to further define direct and indirect supervision during residency. In addition, the amendments pertaining to supervision use a common language and definitions already being utilized within the profession.
- The implementation of a centralized application service for the placement of residents practitioners has multiple aims:
 - To create a single point of entry that provides prospective residents access to pertinent information about a large number of residency programs and the ability to easily apply while minimizing the need to submit multiple applications to attain a placement.
 - To provide residency programs with a customizable and functional cloud based system that will enable sites access to the largest possible pool of potential residents at no cost to the site.
 - To provide NCOPE access to pertinent demographic and placement information needed to continue to improve the processes associated with residency.

Programs are encouraged to review the standards [here](#). The NCOPE staff is available to assist all programs with implementing and meeting these new standards.

For more information on the additions to the standards and the transition for current programs, contact Dominique Mungo at dmungo@ncope.org.

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The National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) promotes education in the profession of orthotics and prosthetics and raises the standards of education in the profession. This includes working in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) for the accreditation of orthotist/prosthetist practitioner and technician level education within the O&P profession. NCOPE's additional responsibilities include the development of standards for, and accreditation of, Residency education and pedorthic education for the O&P profession