



## **Position Statement on Additional Certifications**

Athletic Trainers (ATs), on completion of their professional education, obtain certification by passing a national exam provided by the Board of Certification (BOC) and can use the mark certified athletic trainer (ATC). This examination is recognized by the 49 states that regulate athletic training practice and the District of Columbia to verify entry-level knowledge and competence in the field of athletic training. Athletic trainers have often gained supplemental certifications outside the profession of athletic training. These certifications have historically served ATs in the physician practice setting to signify the ability to perform specific procedural skills in the operating room and as casting technicians. The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) now require similar procedural skills, including diagnostic testing, casting and splinting, durable medical equipment, and wound care (care and closure) in the 2020 Standards of Accreditation of Professional Athletic Training Programs.

It is the opinion of the Athletic Trainers in the Physician Practice Society (ATPPS) that additional certifications (if not required by employer) are not necessary to perform the duties associated with the role of an AT in the physician practice. If employed or practicing as an AT, additional certifications will not allow you to circumvent your state practice act. Individuals should always refer to state practice acts and facility guidelines when practicing as an AT, irrespective of practice setting. In addition, the ATPPS believes that the ATC credential should stand alone, and competency assessments should be provided for specific skill training, rather than obtaining additional certifications that do not include competency assessment. Job descriptions and privileging documents for ATs are in place in many settings that outline the roles and responsibilities of an AT within the physician practice setting under only the ATC credential only. This allows the AT to work at the top of their scope of practice.