



Editorial by Dr. Wallis Concerning HOD Defeat of Specialty Certification

After the 1986 rejection by the AOA House of Delegates, an editorial by Dr. Wallis, the Executive Director of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO,) appeared in the December, 1997 issue of the AOA Journal.

This editorial offers a good overview of how specialties and certification of specialists developed in medicine and why he believed it was a mistake for the HOD to have rejected specialty certification and why it will eventually take place.

More recently, NBEO again attempted to explain the usage of board certification applied only to specialists (see next reference) when AOA introduced the now-defunct American Board of Optometric Practice in 1999. In 2009 when the current attempt to offer board certification to general practitioners began the NBEO withdrew its support.

Due to the size of the document it has been split into five parts for easier downloading over slower internet connections.

Wallis Competence assessment in specialty certification:

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

[Part 3](#)

[Part 4](#)

[Part 5](#)