

**AMERICAN BOARD OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
CLINICAL SKILLS EVALUATION OF RESIDENTS IN
NEUROLOGY AND CHILD NEUROLOGY**

July 2006

Executive Summary

The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) requires that residents demonstrate competency in the following areas:

- A. Medical interviewing
- B. Neurological examination
- C. Humanistic qualities, professionalism, and counseling skills

Demonstration of competency in evaluating a minimum of five different patients (as specified below) during residency training is required.

Required Clinical Skills Evaluations

Adult Neurology Residents

- 1) Critical care: One critically ill adult patient with neurological disease (may be in either an intensive care unit or emergency department setting or an emergency consultation from another inpatient service)
- 2) Neuromuscular: One adult patient with a neuromuscular disease (may be in either an inpatient or outpatient setting)
- 3) Ambulatory: One adult patient with an episodic disorder, such as seizures or migraine (most likely in an outpatient setting)
- 4) Neurodegenerative: One adult patient with a neurodegenerative disorder, such as dementia, a movement disorder, or multiple sclerosis (most likely in an outpatient setting)
- 5) Child patient: One child patient with a neurological disorder (most likely in an outpatient setting)

Child Neurology Residents

- 1) Critical care: One critically ill child patient with neurological disease (may be in either an intensive care unit or emergency department setting or an emergency consultation from another inpatient service)
- 2) Neuromuscular: One child patient with a neuromuscular disease (may be in either an inpatient or outpatient setting)
- 3) Ambulatory: One child patient with an episodic disorder, such as seizures or migraine (most likely in an outpatient setting)
- 4) Neurodegenerative: One child patient with a neurodegenerative disorder, such as an inherited degenerative disease (most likely in an outpatient setting)
- 5) Adult patient: One adult patient with a neurological disorder (most likely in an outpatient setting)

At least one of the above child patients must be:

- An infant or child aged younger than two
- A child aged six to ten
- An adolescent (aged 11 – 15)

The selection of patients (outlined above) by type and age is at the discretion of the residency director. If possible, the patients should be unknown to the resident.

Evaluators

Each resident must be evaluated by a minimum of three ABPN-certified neurologists/ child neurologists who are faculty members. Adult neurologists must perform the adult neurology evaluations, and child neurologists must perform the child neurology evaluations. The faculty member must observe the resident's performance and score the resident's medical interviewing skills; neurological examination skills; humanistic qualities, professionalism, and counseling skills. The resident's ability to present and formulate the case should also be evaluated but that assessment is not to be factored into the overall evaluation.

Duration of Each Encounter

Each evaluation session should last approximately one hour. The residents should be given up to 45 minutes to do the history and neurological examination.

Thereafter, he/she should have 10-15 minutes to present a summary, and formulate the important findings on history and neurological examination. The remainder of the time should be spent in discussion and feedback from the faculty member who observed the encounter.

Timing of the Evaluations

The ABPN encourages administering these evaluations early in residency training. The ABPN anticipates that many residents may not “pass” all their evaluations on the first attempt. Early evaluation provides an opportunity for the residents to rectify any deficiencies and to successfully complete the process in order to apply to take the certification examination.

Evaluation Forms and Scoring Criteria

Approved evaluation forms are posted on the ABPN web site (<http://www.abpn.com/forms.htm>). Two forms are currently available (NEX v.1 and NEX v.2). Programs can add additional items for their own purposes. Criteria for scoring the components of the clinical skills evaluation are provided in the full instructions.

Determination of Passing the Evaluation

The individual faculty member will determine if the resident passed all three core components (A. medical interviewing, B. neurological examination, C. humanistic qualities, professionalism, and counseling skills) of the clinical evaluation.

A passing score is required for all three components (A, B, and C) for an overall passing score. Regardless of when during training the resident takes the evaluation, the standard for passing remains the same.

Submission of Documentation to the ABPN

The ABPN requires written attestation from the training director that the resident has successfully passed all five clinical skills evaluations at the time of application for certification. The number of times that the resident takes one of the clinical skills evaluations is not required. It is recommended that the program retain the evaluation forms as part of the resident’s training file.