

**AMERICAN BOARD OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY, INC.
REQUIREMENTS FOR
CLINICAL SKILLS EVALUATION OF RESIDENTS IN PSYCHIATRY**

October 2011

General Principles

The clinical evaluation requirement is effective for residents who entered residency training in psychiatry as a PGY-1 on or after July 1, 2007, or as a PGY-2 on or after July 1, 2008.

The clinical evaluation requirement is also effective for residents who entered a combined residency training program (Psychiatry/Internal Medicine; Psychiatry/Family Medicine; Psychiatry/Neurology; Pediatrics/Psychiatry/Child & Adolescent Psychiatry; Post Pediatrics Portal Program) on or after July 1, 2007, or their PGY-2 on or after July 1, 2008, regardless of the rotations they actually have in those years.

The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) requires that residents demonstrate mastery of the following three components of the core competencies to apply for certification in the specialty of psychiatry. They are:

- Physician-patient relationship
- Psychiatric interview, including mental status examination
- Case presentation

All three competency components are to be assessed in the context of a patient evaluation that is conducted in the presence of an ABPN-certified psychiatrist. (Videotaped interactions or simulated/standardized patients cannot be used as the basis for the evaluation.) **Three** evaluations with **three** different patients are required. Training programs may elect to do more such evaluations. They may also assess additional competency components in the evaluation, e.g., differential diagnosis, treatment planning.

Selection of Patients

The selection of patients is at the discretion of the residency program director, and any patient type in any clinical setting may be used. The patients must be unknown to the resident; the resident must not have seen or examined the patient.

Evaluators

Each of the three evaluations must be conducted by an ABPN-certified psychiatrist. At least two of the evaluations must be conducted by different ABPN-certified psychiatrists. The evaluator must observe the resident's performance and score the resident on the physician-patient relationship; psychiatric interview, including mental status examination; and case presentation.

Duration of Each Evaluation

The length of the evaluation will be determined by each residency program based on the competency components to be assessed. At a minimum, each evaluation session should last at least 45 minutes. The resident should be given a minimum of 30 minutes to conduct the psychiatric interview. Thereafter, he/she should have a minimum of 10-15 minutes to present the case. If the program has decided to assess additional competency components, the session may last longer. If appropriate, the evaluator may give feedback to the resident.

Timing of the Evaluations

The evaluations may be administered at any time during residency training; however, the ABPN encourages administering them throughout training. The ABPN anticipates that many residents may not perform acceptably on all their evaluations on the first attempt.

Evaluation Forms

Evaluations must be completed on ABPN-approved forms, and two versions (Psych CSV v1 and Psych CSV v2) are posted on the ABPN web site. Residency programs may add additional competencies/items for their own purposes, e.g., differential diagnosis, treatment planning. If programs develop their own forms, they must be submitted to the APBN for approval.

Determination of Acceptable Performance

The individual evaluator will determine if the resident performed acceptably on each of the three competency components. An acceptable score is required for all three components. Regardless of when during training the resident takes the evaluation, the standard for acceptable performance, that of a competent practicing psychiatrist, remains the same.

Because the resident may take each of these clinical skills evaluations multiple times if necessary (which will not affect the resident's admissibility to the ABPN certification examination), there should not be pressure to score a resident's performance as acceptable on an evaluation.

If a resident is unsuccessful in completing the evaluations, any remediation activities are the responsibility of the training program.

Submission of Documentation to the ABPN

At the time of application for certification, the ABPN requires attestation from the residency program director of an ACGME-accredited psychiatry program. Documentation must include a statement that the resident performed acceptably on three clinical skills evaluations and must include the full names of the ABPN-certified evaluators and the dates of the evaluations. It is recommended that the program retain the evaluation forms as part of the resident's training file. The ABPN reserves the right to audit the evaluation process. The evaluations are valid for five years following completion of residency training.

Components of the Clinical Skills Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

Physician-Patient Relationship

For performance to be scored acceptable, the resident must develop rapport with the patient, respond appropriately to the patient, and follow cues presented by the patient.

Conduct of the Psychiatric Interview

For performance to be scored acceptable, the resident must obtain sufficient data for formulating a DSM Axes I-V differential diagnosis; obtain psychiatric, medical, family, and social histories; screen for suicidal and homicidal ideation; use open- and close-ended questions as appropriate; and perform an adequate mental status examination.

Case Presentation

For performance to be scored acceptable, the resident must present an organized and accurate history and an organized and accurate summary of the mental status findings.

Post-Residency Clinical Skills Evaluation

Residency program directors may administer clinical skills evaluations for graduates of their programs or of other programs. All of the requirements for in-training evaluations will apply. The third evaluation must be completed within five years of the first evaluation, and they are valid for five years after completion of the third clinical skills evaluation. Documentation of successful completion must be received from the psychiatry residency program director.