American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.
A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

ABPN preCERT® Credentialing System FAQs

What is the ABPN preCERT® System?

The ABPN preCERT® credentialing system allows program directors to build and track residents' progress, including clinical skills evaluations, in preparation for graduation and application to the Board for certification. Utilizing this system eliminates the need for training program directors' letters documenting their residents' rotations, experiences, and training dates. Currently the preCERT® system is not being utilized for the purposes of tracking resident progress and completion of a subspecialty fellowship with the exception of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry training.

To obtain your user ID and password, access the ABPN website at www.abpn.com, and click on the orange preCERT® button on the homepage. On the preCERT main page, click on the preCERT sign up link, complete and submit the user account sign up form and an ID and password will be emailed to you.

Why should I use the preCERT® system?

As a reminder, the ABPN now only accepts online applications. Residents will be able to submit an online application via their ABPN Physician Folios account **only if** the required training information is listed in the preCERT® system.

Who will use the information? How will it be used?

This information is for use by the ABPN. We will also provide reports of this information to the ACGME and the appropriate RRC, as requested.

How often do I need to enter data into preCERT®?

We strongly encourage all training programs to begin entering their resident information in the ABPN preCERT® system in August of each year to ensure the residents will be able to apply for the exam by the application deadline. This information must be entered into the preCERT® system no later than January 15th to allow residents the ability to apply by the application deadline.

What are the PGY records versus the rotation records? Why do I need to create PGY records?

To organize and better understand when a rotation has been completed and that all ACGME requirements are met, the preCERT® system tracks rotations and clinical skills evaluations by the post-graduate year (PGY) in which they take place. Within the preCERT® system, the PGY record must be established before the details of the record, or rotations and CSEs, can be added to it. Rotations may only be attested to if they are completed, and PGYs may only be marked completed if the actual end date has been exceeded by at least one day.

Am I able to import resident records from ERAS into preCERT®?

Yes, you can access the ERAS import function from the Residents menu item listed as Import ERAS Resident Information. The instructions provided on that page will need to be followed closely to ensure a successful import of the records. Please check all imported records for accuracy and make any necessary changes.

If I have a neurology program as well as a psychiatry program, will I need two separate logins? What about a separate child and adolescent psychiatry program, and a general psychiatry program?

You will need a separate login for each, since each is considered a unique program by the ACGME. To obtain your user ID and password, access the ABPN website at www.abpn.com, and click on the orange preCERT® button on the homepage. On the preCERT main page, click on the preCERT sign up link, complete and submit the user account sign up form and an ID and password will be emailed to you.

Do I still need to send you a written letter?

For those residents whose complete training is entered into the preCERT® system, you will not need to send a letter.

How do I enter fractions of months? We have some rotations that are 0.5 or 2.5 months.

ACGME requirements specify rotations in whole month terms. If you do part time rotations, i.e., all morning every day for two months which equals .5 each month, wait until the end of two months and enter 1 month. For rotations that carry over from one year to the next (like a continuity clinic) wait until it is completed for the current PGY and then enter the appropriate number of months completed in the PGY.

Can I transfer the information from myEvaluations or New Innovations?

Not at this time. While myEvaluations and New Innovations are two popular tracking systems, there are many different systems in use by various training programs. The data collected by these other systems are in several different formats that would make file sharing difficult at best. But more importantly, there are legal and privacy issues with sharing data.

If I am entering this information into the ACGME Learning Profile system, why do I need to also enter it into the preCERT® system?

Based on the information we have from correspondence with the ACGME, their system data will be input by residents and NOT verified or attested to by the training program director. Conversely, the ABPN preCERT® system collects the data that is required to credential residents (potential candidates) for our certification examinations. This data is attested to by the training program director before a resident may be credentialed by the ABPN for examination. As the ABPN continues to refine the preCERT® system, and continues discussions with the ACGME, the ABPN will do its best to facilitate the transfer of data between the two systems if it becomes a possibility.

Where can I get information on setting up an account and how to use the system?

To obtain your user ID and password, access the ABPN website at www.abpn.com, and click on the orange preCERT® button on the homepage. On the preCERT main page, click on the preCERT sign up link, complete and submit the user account sign up form and an ID and password will be emailed to you.

If you have questions concerning obtaining a login and password or how to use the ABPN preCERT ® system, please contact the ABPN Credentials Department at 847-229-6510 or credentials@abpn.com.

How much does the ABPN preCERT® system cost?

It is free for training programs.