Brain Injury Medicine Grandfathering Extended

Certification in the Subspecialty of Brain Injury Medicine

History and Statement of Principles
In September 2011, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approved the application co-sponsored by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) and the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR) to offer subspecialty certification in brain injury medicine. This officially establishes the field of brain injury medicine as an area of subspecialization in psychiatry, neurology, child neurology, and physical medicine and rehabilitation, and provides a means of identifying properly trained and experienced physicians in brain injury medicine.

The actual mechanics of certification of qualified candidates have been delegated by the Boards to the Committee, which operates under the supervision of and in accordance with the policies of the Boards.

The examination will be administered to candidates who have maintained certification by the ABPMR, or by the ABPN in neurology, neurology with special qualification in child neurology, or psychiatry or maintained subspecialty certification in sports medicine through any of the following ABMS Boards: the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM), the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM), the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) or the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP). The examination will be administered at the same time in the same testing centers. Participation in the certification program is voluntary. Certification is not required of practitioners in this field, and the certificate does not convey privilege to practice.

Certification Requirements
To achieve certification in brain injury medicine (BIM), candidates from the ABPN must hold a valid certificate in psychiatry, neurology, or neurology with special qualification in child neurology, and fulfill all of the following requirements:
- Attestation of requisite practice experience or documentation of successful completion of formal training requirements, as specified in descriptions of the training or practice pathways
- Meet all training requirements (if applying through training pathway) by July 31 of the year of the examination
- Meet the ABPN’s licensure requirements
- Be certified by the ABPN in psychiatry, neurology, or neurology with special qualification in child neurology by December 31 prior to the examination administration

Diplomates certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) or sports medicine should contact the ABPMR for information regarding certification requirements before applying for the BIM examination.

Training Requirements
Applicants may qualify for examination by submitting documentation of successful completion of one year of fellowship training in brain injury medicine completed in a program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The brain injury medicine fellow must have satisfactorily completed an ACGME-accredited psychiatry, neurology, or child neurology residency prior to entering the brain injury medicine program. Training or exposure to brain injury medicine given to psychiatry, neurology, or child neurology residents as part of their basic psychiatry, neurology, or child neurology curriculum does not count toward the one year of brain injury medicine training. Training must be completed by July 31 of the year of the examination.

Temporary Criteria (Specific requirements during the “grandfathering period” – 2014 through 2022) *
During the “grandfathering period”, as an alternative to one year of ACGME-accredited fellowship training in brain injury medicine, applicants may qualify for examination in brain injury medicine if they can provide the following:
- Documentation of satisfactory completion of 12 months of fellowship training in a non-ACGME-accredited brain injury medicine fellowship program affiliated with an ACGME-accredited psychiatry, neurology, or child neurology residency
training program. The brain injury medicine fellow must have satisfactorily completed an ACGME-accredited psychiatry, neurology, or child neurology residency prior to entering the brain injury medicine program.

OR

- Attestation of a minimum of 25% of practice time in the United States devoted to brain injury medicine beyond completion of residency training in the primary specialty for a minimum of three years (within the last five years). The practice should be adequately broad to reasonably reflect the full scope of brain injury medicine.

One year of full time equivalent subspecialty training must be completed in a continuous block of not less than one-half time.

*Note: In September 2016, the ABPN announced that the grandfathering period or temporary criteria for practice time required for ABPN certification in brain injury medicine has been extended from 2018 to 2022.

Training Pathway (Specific training requirements after the “grandfathering period”)

After the “grandfathering period,” applicants for certification in brain injury medicine must:

- Be certified by the Board in psychiatry, neurology, or neurology with special qualification in child neurology by December 31 prior to the examination administration.
- Meet the ABPN’s licensure requirements.
- Submit documentation of successful completion of one year of ACGME-accredited fellowship training in brain injury medicine. The brain injury medicine fellow must have satisfactorily completed an ACGME-accredited psychiatry, neurology, or child neurology residency prior to entering the brain injury medicine program. Training or exposure to brain injury medicine given to psychiatry, neurology, or child neurology residents as part of the basic curriculum does not count toward the one year of training. All training requirements must be met no later than July 31 of the year of the examination.

One year of full time equivalent subspecialty training must be completed in a continuous block of not less than one-half time.

Candidates who applied under the temporary criteria who fail the examination may reapply for the examination after the temporary criteria has expired.

Examination Content

The initial certification in brain injury medicine examination will be administered via computer at Pearson VUE testing centers. Candidates are assessed in all areas of brain injury medicine. The full BIM Examination Outline is available on the ABPMR website.

Recognition of Successful Diplomates

Successful ABPN diplomates will be awarded a Certificate in the Subspecialty of Brain Injury Medicine and enrolled in the Continuous Maintenance of Certification (C-MOC) program.

Maintenance of Certification

To renew ABPN certification in brain injury medicine, diplomates must hold a valid certificate in their primary ABPN specialty and complete the ABPN requirements for maintenance of certification (MOC). Additional information about MOC requirements is posted on the ABPN website at www.abpn.com.

Examination Application

- The 2020 Brain Injury Medicine Certification Examination will be offered September 22, 2020.
- Applications and related information will be available on the ABPN website starting January 1, 2020.
- Applications are due March 15, 2020.
- Applications received after March 15, 2020 will incur a late fee.
- The final deadline for receipt of Brain Injury Medicine Certification applications is April 14, 2020.
- Applications are made through ABPN Physician Folios.

Please contact the ABPN Credentials Department at 847-229-6510 or credentials@abpn.com with any questions about certification in the subspecialty of brain injury medicine.