



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Statement on Intent to Drop Primary Certification

Please carefully review the following statement, which includes important details and implications of changing your primary certification.

Effective July 2019, those American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. (ABPN) diplomates currently certified in a multidisciplinary subspecialty administered by an ABMS member board **other than** the ABPN have the **option** of following the lead of the administering ABMS member board regarding their primary certification requirement.

Under this new policy, ABPN diplomates in the following multidisciplinary subspecialties only **may** follow the administrative board's policies concerning maintaining or not maintaining their primary certification. Please consult the appropriate website for policy information:

- Hospice and Palliative Medicine: [American Board of Internal Medicine](#)
- Pain Medicine: [American Board of Anesthesiology](#)
- Sleep Medicine: [American Board of Internal Medicine](#)

Effect on Certification Status

If a diplomate elects to let his/her primary certification lapse, the diplomate may no longer state or imply, verbally or in writing, that he/she is board certified in psychiatry, neurology and neurology with the special qualification in child neurology. The diplomate is required to immediately correct all advertising, CVs, directory listings, business cards, signature lines, etc. Please note that in response to any requests regarding primary ABPN certification status, the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) and the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) will verify a status as "not certified."

Subspecialty MOC Requirements in Effect

In dropping primary certification, an ABPN diplomate is still responsible for fulfilling all ABPN maintenance of certification (MOC)/Continuing Certification requirements (Parts I-IV) to maintain subspecialty certification.

Impact on Practice

The ABPN encourages diplomates to investigate and carefully review the policies of various external stakeholders (including but not limited to the state licensing board, medical staff, and insurance panels) and any contracts that he/she may be a party to in an effort to ensure that dropping primary ABPN certification will not have a negative impact on a diplomate, his/her practice, or these other entities.

Impact on Future Subspecialty Certification

Note that all diplomates must have a primary ABPN certification in order to become certified in any additional subspecialty offered by the ABPN. This policy has not changed the requirements for those diplomates who hold ABPN-administered subspecialty certifications. The current exception is Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Diplomates certified in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry are not required to maintain their general Psychiatry certification or to sit for the Psychiatry MOC exam.

Impact on Volunteer Participation

Diplomates must maintain primary ABPN certification in order to volunteer as a committee member.

Regaining Primary Certification

Diplomates must comply with the ABPN policies in effect at the time that they seek to regain primary ABPN certification. See our current [MOC Booklet](#) for the ABPN policy.

Compliance with Policy Requirements

The ABPN is not liable for any consequences, seen or unforeseen, of a diplomate's choice to drop primary ABPN certification.

Please direct any questions to credentials@abpn.com.

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