



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

Certification in the Subspecialty of Epilepsy

History and Statement of Principles

In September 2010, the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) approved the application sponsored by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), to offer subspecialty certification in Epilepsy. This officially establishes the field of epilepsy as an area of subspecialization in neurology and child neurology, and provides a means of identifying physicians properly trained and experienced in treating epilepsy.

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

The examination is administered to candidates certified by the ABPN in neurology or neurology with special qualification in child neurology at Pearson VUE testing centers. Participation in the certification program is voluntary. Certification is not required of practitioners in this field, and the certificate does not confer privilege to practice.

Certification Requirements

To achieve certification in epilepsy, candidates must hold a valid certificate in 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 temporary or training pathways.
- Must meet all training requirements (if applying through training pathway) by July 31 of the year of the examination.
- Must meet the ABPN's licensure requirements.
- Must be certified by the ABPN in neurology or neurology with special qualification in child neurology by December 31 of the year prior to the examination administration.

Applicants may qualify for examination by submitting documentation of successful completion of one year of fellowship training in epilepsy completed in an epilepsy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The epilepsy fellow must have satisfactorily completed an ACGME-accredited neurology, child neurology, or ABPN approved neurology combined residency prior to entering the epilepsy fellowship program. Training or exposure to epilepsy given to neurology or child neurology residents as part of their basic neurology or child neurology curriculum does not count toward the one year of epilepsy fellowship training. Training must be completed no later than July 31 of the year of the examination.

Temporary Criteria (Specific requirements during the practice pathway period -- 2013 through 2018)

During the practice pathway period (2013-2018), as an alternative to one year of ACGME-accredited fellowship training in epilepsy, applicants may qualify for examination in epilepsy if they can provide the following:

- Documentation of satisfactory completion of 12 months of fellowship training in a non-ACGME-accredited epilepsy program affiliated with an ACGME-accredited neurology or child neurology residency training program. The epilepsy fellow must have satisfactorily completed an ACGME-accredited neurology, child neurology, or ABPN approved neurology combined residency prior to entering the epilepsy fellowship program. Training or exposure to epilepsy given to neurology or child neurology residents as part of their basic neurology or child neurology curriculum does not count toward the one year of epilepsy fellowship training. Training must be completed by July 31 of the year of the examination.

- Or attestation of 25% of practice time in the United States devoted to epilepsy beyond completion of residency training in the primary specialty for a minimum of two years.

During the temporary or the practice pathway period, fellowship training in clinical neurophysiology (CNP) may be used in lieu of fellowship training in epilepsy provided that the clinical neurophysiology training has not been used in the credentialing process for CNP or for any other ABPN subspecialty examination. **If clinical neurophysiology training is used to credential for certification in epilepsy, it cannot subsequently be used to credential for certification in clinical neurophysiology.**

Training Pathway (Specific training requirements after the practice pathway period after 2018)

After the practice pathway period, applicants for certification in epilepsy must:

- Be certified by the ABPN in neurology or neurology with special qualification in child neurology by December 31 prior to the examination administration.
- Submit documentation of successful completion of one year of fellowship training in epilepsy completed in an ACGME-accredited program. The epilepsy fellow must have satisfactorily completed an ACGME-accredited neurology, child neurology, or ABPN approved neurology combined residency prior to entering the epilepsy fellowship program. Training or exposure to epilepsy given to neurology or child neurology residents as part of their basic neurology or child neurology curriculum does not count toward the one year of epilepsy fellowship 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 residency training must be completed in a continuous block of not less than one-half time.

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

International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) Classification Update

In 2017, the ILAE Classification of the Epilepsies was updated to reflect advances in the field since the last classification update in 1989. The 2020 Subspecialty Certification Examination in Epilepsy Medicine will reflect these changes as we transition from the 1989 classifications to the 2017 classifications. The format for the transition will be “2017 terminology (with 1989 terminology in parentheses)”. For example, “focal impaired awareness (complex partial) seizures.” For more information regarding the specifics of the Classification of the Epilepsies updates, please refer to the ILAE website [here](#).

Examination Format and Content

The certification in epilepsy examination is administered via computer at Pearson VUE testing centers. Details on examination format and content are available at www.abpn.com/become-certified/taking-a-subspecialty-exam/epilepsy/. The Board recommends that examinees use the following resources for test preparation: peer-reviewed journals, current monographs and textbooks, review publications, practice guidelines, accredited CME programs, and attendance at professional meetings.

Examination Applications

- The 2020 Epilepsy Certification Examination will be offered October 19-23, 2020.
- Applications and related information will be available on the [ABPN website](#) starting January 7, 2020.
- Applications are due April 9, 2020.
- Applications received after April 9, 2020 will incur a late fee.
- The final deadline for receipt of Epilepsy Certification applications is May 7, 2020.
- Applications are made through [ABPN Physician Folios](#).

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