



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

2022

Information for Applicants

Initial Certification Examination

in

Brain Injury Medicine

The information contained in this document and the 2022 ABPN Board Policies Manual supersedes all previously printed publications concerning Board requirements, policies, and procedures. For the most current information, please visit our website at www.abpn.com.

Initial Certification Exam in Brain Injury Medicine

Dates Choice	September 12, 2022
Application Deadline	March 10, 2022
Late Deadline	May 12, 2022

2022 Fee Schedule*

Examination fee	\$1900
Miscellaneous Fees	
Late application fee (in addition to the above)	\$500
Application/licensure appeal fee****	\$350
Examination appeal fee****	\$350
Irregular behavior appeal fee****	\$350
Application for testing accommodations appeal fee****	\$350
Duplicate certificate fee	\$150
Returned check charge	\$50
*All fees must be submitted in U.S. currency	
****Appeal fees are refundable if the decision is in the appellant's favor	
Please note: The ABPN reserves the right to revise fee schedule at any time. Throughout this publication, the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. may be referred to as "the Board" or as "ABPN". ATTENTION VETERANS: Some or all of your exam fees may be reimbursed through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Please contact the DVA for further information.	

Important Dates for Initial Certification Exam in Brain Injury Medicine

Exam Date Choice	September 12, 2022
Applications Available	December 1, 2021
Deadline for required certification in psychiatry, neurology or child neurology	December 31, 2021
Applicant completing training after July 31, 2022 should contact the Board regarding eligibility	January 15, 2022
Application Deadline	March 10, 2022
Late Application Deadline	May 12, 2022
Deadline for requesting an Application for ADA Accommodations	March 10, 2022
Deadline for requesting an application for Nursing Mother Accommodations	March 10, 2022
Applicant should contact the Board if they have not received notification regarding their application	June 30, 2022
Scheduling Instructions Emailed for the ABPMR*	Rolling
Pearson VUE Registration Opens	Rolling
Graduation verification due to the Board for residents graduating June 30, 2022	July 15, 2022
Graduation verification due to the Board for residents graduating July 31, 2022	August 15, 2022

* The American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will begin to email candidates scheduling instructions approximately 5 months prior to the start of the examination. Candidates may schedule their examination upon receipt of the instructions.

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I. Training Requirements for Initial Certification Exam in Brain Injury Medicine

A. General Training Requirements

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 of the year prior to the examination. All training requirements must be met by July 31 of the year of the examination.

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.

Training programs approved by the residency review Committees and accredited by the ACGME can be found in the current edition of the Graduate Medical Education Directory, published by the American Medical Association or on the ACGME website, www.ACGME.org.

All applicants other than those initially admitted during the Practice Pathway are required to submit documentation of successful completion of one full time equivalent (FTE) year of ACGME-accredited fellowship training in brain injury medicine that did not begin before the time general residency training in psychiatry, neurology, or child neurology, including time spent in combined training programs, was completed.

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

B. Specific Training Requirements During the Practice Pathway period (2014 through 2022 Examinations)

During the Practice Pathway 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.

The specialized training in brain injury medicine may be completed on a part-time basis, as long as it is not less than half-time; credit is not given for periods of training lasting less than one year, except under special circumstances that must be approved by the ABPN Credentials Committee. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide detailed documentation from the respective training directors that outlines training content, duties, and responsibilities. Each case is considered on an individual basis.

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

C. Training Pathway (Specific Training Requirements After the Practice Pathway Period After 2022)

After the Practice Pathway period, applicants for certification in brain injury medicine must:

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.

NOTE: Candidates who were approved under the Practice Pathway criteria who fail the examination may reapply for the examination after the Practice Pathway criteria has expired.

II. Requirements for Admission to the Initial Certification Exam in Brain Injury Medicine

A. General Requirements for All Applicants

To qualify to sit for examination, an applicant must:

1. Be a graduate of an accredited medical school in the United States or Canada or of an international medical school listed by the World Health Organization.
2. Have an active, full, unrestricted medical license as defined in the **separate Board Policies Manual** on the ABPN website. Applicants are required to update their active, full, unrestricted medical licenses in their ABPN Physician Portal account.
3. Be certified by the Board in psychiatry, neurology, or neurology with special qualification in child neurology by December 31 of the year prior to the examination administration.
4. Have satisfactorily completed the Board's specific training requirements in brain injury medicine, as described in Section I.
5. Submit a completed official online application including all required attachments and the appropriate examination fees by the specified deadlines. Applicants are required to apply online through the ABPN Physician Portal at www.abpn.com/portal.

B. Initial Certification in the Subspecialty of Brain Injury Medicine

In September 2011, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approved the application cosponsored 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 was done to officially establish the field of brain injury medicine as a definite area of subspecialization in psychiatry, neurology, child neurology, and physical medicine and rehabilitation, and to provide 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 Board to the Committee, which operates under the supervision of and in accordance with the policies of the Board.

Currently, there is no limit on the number of times an applicant may apply to take the initial certification in the subspecialty of brain injury medicine examination.

III. Brain Injury Medicine Certification Examination: Application Process, Procedures, Format and Content

A. Application Process Information

Applications are to be completed and submitted using the online application through ABPN Physician Portal at www.abpn.com. Through ABPN Physician Portal, physicians may update licensure information and change their contact information.

See Important Dates at the beginning of this document for application availability. INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS documents are revised each year and may be downloaded from the website. Only applications submitted through ABPN Physician Portal are accepted. Faxed copies or revised applications from a previous administration year are not accepted.

Applications are reviewed in the order of receipt. It may take up to 16 weeks for the applicant to receive further information regarding the status of the application. MOC in Brain Injury Medicine applicants who do not receive any notification from the Board regarding their application by June 30, 2022, should contact the Board office to inquire about the status of their application.

Applicants accepted for examination are notified via email. Applicants denied admission to the examination are notified of their deficiencies in meeting the standards of the Board via regular mail.

Approximately five months prior to the examination date, accepted candidates will be emailed scheduling instructions by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Candidates who fail to present themselves for the first scheduled examination following the date of acceptance of their applications are required to reapply online and pay the current examination fee.

B. Applicants with Disabilities

The Board recognizes that physicians with disabilities may wish to take the examinations and will attempt to make accommodations for applicants with verified disabilities. The Board supports the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and amendments thereto. The Board will provide reasonable accommodations during testing to provide equal opportunity for persons with disabilities. Applicants are reminded that modifications, accommodations, auxiliary aids and/or services can only be offered if they do not “fundamentally alter the measurement of the skills or knowledge the examination is intended to test” (28 C.F.R. §36.309(b)(3)).

Any applicant who requests accommodations during the application process because of a disability must advise the Board electronically or in writing no later than the deadline for submitting applications for examination. All items must be submitted to the board no later than the application deadline, regardless of previous requests and/or granted accommodations.

All items must be emailed to questions@abpn.com no later than one month after the application deadline regardless of previous requests and/or granted accommodations.

- An [Application for Testing Accommodations pdf form](#),
- All appropriate checklists,
- Personal statement,
- All documentation, and
- All other evidence substantiating the disability.
- If available, previous NBME/NBOME accommodation approval letter.

C. Applicants who are Nursing

Diplomates who will be nursing at the time of their examination may request an [application for nursing mother accommodations](#) during the application process. The request may be emailed to questions@abpn.com no less than 60 days prior to the first day of the examination.

D. Computer-Administered Examination Procedures

Approximately five months prior to the examination, the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will begin emailing scheduling instructions to candidates whose applications have been approved. Candidates are urged to contact Pearson VUE as soon as scheduling opens to make an appointment for the examination. A delay in contacting Pearson VUE can result in fewer available openings for the examination in a candidate's choice of date and location. ABPN does not guarantee the availability of locations, dates and/or times of Pearson VUE test centers.

If the first and last name that the candidate applied under is different than the name that appears on the identification, certified, legal documentation (marriage license, name change determination, etc.) verifying the name change must be submitted to the Board office prior to the date of the examination. Address and/or email address changes must be updated online through the ABPN Physician Portal at www.abpn.com/physicianportal.

Candidates are required to present two forms of identification upon arrival at the testing center. One of the forms of identification must be government issued and must display a recent, permanently affixed photograph. Both forms of identification must be signed, and both must be valid (not expired). The first and last names on both identifications must match the name on file with the ABPN. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the candidate's inability to gain admission to the examination. If a name change has recently occurred, it is recommended to bring a copy of legal documentation to the testing center on the appointment date. Government- issued identification includes military identification, passports, driver's licenses, and state identification cards. Secondary Identification includes a Social Security card, valid credit card, bank automated teller machine card.

Candidates may NOT bring food, drink, cellular phones, pagers, other electronic devices, books, study materials, or other personal belongings, including watches and wallets, into the examination room. A secure locker is available to store personal items. Candidates may not access phones or other devices of any kind while on an unscheduled break. Accessing prohibited items during unscheduled breaks constitutes irregular behavior and may be cause for invalidation of examination result (See separate Board Policies Manual).

Candidates are NOT permitted to leave the testing center's building during a test section. Leaving the building during a test section constitutes irregular behavior and may be cause for invalidation of examination results (See separate Board Policies Manual).

Candidates are photographed and are required to provide an electronic signature at the computer test centers. For security purposes, candidates are required to place each hand on a palm vein device each time they enter or leave the computer test center. This information is stored electronically. Candidates must agree to the Pearson VUE Professional & Regulatory Candidate Rules. Candidates must agree to the *ABPN Nondisclosure Agreement* before taking the examination. If the NDA is not agreed to within 5 minutes, the examination will end.

Candidates are observed at all times while taking the examination. This observation includes direct monitoring by testing center staff, as well as video and audio recording of the examination session.

General questions about requirements and logistics of ABPN examinations may be asked of ABPN staff by telephone. Verbal complaints to staff, directors, proctors, or examiners that continue after explanation of ABPN policy that rise to the level of harassment may be considered irregular behavior (See Policies Manual).

Candidates withdrawing from an examination:

The examination fee is refunded to candidates withdrawing from an examination, provided the President and CEO of the Board is notified in writing no less than 60 days prior to the first date of the examination date range. Failure to notify the Board in writing no less than 60 days prior to the first date of the examination date range results in forfeiture of the examination fees. Application fees are not refunded for any reason.

Candidates unable to sit for their scheduled examination due to an unforeseen medical or other emergency:

Candidates who are unable to sit for their scheduled examination due to an unforeseen medical or other emergency

should submit a personal statement and supporting documentation of the emergency to the Board office, no later than 30 days after the date of the examination. The Board will then evaluate the documentation and determine whether the absence is excusable. In determining whether an absence is excusable, the Board will consider whether the claimed emergency could have been anticipated and/or foreseen prior to the examination. Candidates suffering from pre-existing and/or chronic conditions generally will not be excused for medical or other emergencies relating to such conditions. If the absence is determined excusable, the candidate is rescheduled for the next ABPN computer-administered examination, and the examination fee will be transferred. Such candidates will be responsible for paying a transfer fee of \$400 and may be responsible for paying any difference in the examination fee. In the event a candidate is granted two consecutive excused absences, subsequent requests for rescheduling will be denied, only the candidate's examination fee (but not transfer fees) will be refunded, less the non-refundable \$500 processing/evaluation fee, and such candidates will be required to re-apply in order to sit for examination.

Candidates who fail the computer-administered examination (except Pain Medicine and Pain Medicine CC/MOC):

Candidates who fail the initial computer-administered examination may reapply for a future administration of the examination.

E. Brain Injury Medicine Certification Examination Format and Content

Examinations are administered at Pearson VUE testing centers. Details on the examination format and content are available at <https://www.abpnr.org/Subspecialties/BIM>.

The BIM examination consists of 280 multiple-choice questions with one best answer. The examination is divided into morning and afternoon sections of 140 questions each. Each section of the exam is allotted 3.5 hours for completion. There is a one-hour optional lunch break between the morning and afternoon sections. Unused break time cannot be used at any other time. If a candidate is away for more than 60 minutes during the one-hour optional lunch break, time will automatically be deducted from the remaining examination time. Candidates may take an unscheduled break as needed. Examination time does not stop during an unscheduled break.

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.

F. Grade Letters and Certificates

1. Grade Letters

The President and CEO of the Board notifies candidates in writing of their results no later than ten to twelve weeks from the last date of the testing date range.

2. Certificates

Successful candidates receive their certificates approximately three months after grade letters are mailed. It is the candidate's responsibility to notify the Board office, in writing, if he or she does not receive a certificate within six months. If a candidate does not submit a written notification that the certificate was not delivered, the candidate must request a duplicate certificate and pay the appropriate fee. (See Fees at the beginning of this document.)

3. Duplicate Certificates

Photocopies of Board certificates are not available from the ABPN.

Requests for duplicates of ABPN certificates must specify the diplomate's:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Birth date
- Signature
- Preference of how their name will be printed on the certificate
- Specialty or subspecialty certification for which they are requesting a duplicate certificate

The diplomate must include:

- A copy of each current medical license held, showing the expiration date
- For security purposes, a copy of government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport
- The appropriate fee (See Fees at the beginning of this publication.)

NOTE: For any name changes on a certificate, the diplomate must submit certified, legal documentation (marriage license, name change determination, etc.) to the Board office.

A form for requesting a duplicate certificate may be obtained from the ABPN website at www.abpn.com. Certificates are printed approximately four times per year. Depending on when a duplicate certificate is requested, it may be four to six months until the diplomate receives the duplicate certificate.

G. Computer-Administered Examination Appeal Procedures

The Board provides applicants appeals procedures for certain negative determinations. Specifically, a candidate may appeal:

- The rejection of credentials for admission to an examination (See procedure 1 below)
- Invalidation of an examination score due to irregular behavior (See procedure 1 below)
- The denial of a request for disability accommodations (See procedure 1 below)
- A failing grade on a computer-administered examination (See procedure 2 below)

1. Appeal Procedure for Rejection of Credentials, Invalidation of Examination Score Due to Irregular Behavior, or Denial of a Request for Disability Accommodations

An applicant may appeal the decision if:

- The applicant submitted a formal application and received a negative determination regarding the application
- The applicant's examination scores are invalidated because of irregular behavior
- The applicant's request for disability accommodations was denied

Such applicants or candidates must submit the following materials to the President and CEO at the Board office:

- Written request for a formal appeal
- Applicable appeal fee (See Fee Schedule)
- Additional written information that supports the appeal

The appeal materials must be sent in a single mailing that is post-marked within 30 days of the date indicated on the letter of negative determination. The materials are sent to the respective Appeals Committee, which reviews the materials, deliberates, and makes a determination. In all events, the Appeals Committee's determination is final and binding on both the Board and the candidate.

If the appeal is granted, the appeal fee will be returned to the candidate.

2. Appeal Procedure for Computer-Administered Examination Compromise in Administration

An examinee who believes there was a compromise in the administration of their examination should report the alleged compromise to the Board office in writing within 72 hours of the alleged incident by sending an email to questions@abpn.com.

Appeals are limited to a review of an alleged compromise in the administration of the examination. Specifically, that the examination was administered in a manner that was atypical or did not meet the Board's guidelines. An appeal does not result in a review of a candidate's performance on an examination.

An appeal will never reverse a negative determination of a computer-administered examination. Rather, a successful appeal will result in the examination being invalidated and the candidate being rescheduled to sit for the examination at the next available administration.

After notifying the ABPN of a compromise in the administration of the examination within 72 hours of sitting for an examination, candidates who wish to appeal the administration of an examination must then submit the following

materials to the President and CEO at the Board office in a single mailing post marked within 30 days of the administration of the examination:

- Written request for a formal appeal of the exam administration
- Applicable appeal fee (See Fee Schedule)
- Additional written information in support of the appeal

The materials are sent to the respective Appeals Committee, which reviews the materials, deliberates, and decides. In all events, the Appeals Committee's determination is final and binding on both the Board and the candidate.

If the appeal is granted, the appeal fee will be returned, the score for the examination will be invalidated, and the candidate will be rescheduled to sit for the examination at the next available administration.

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