



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

New Simplified Approach to Article Requirements for the Article-Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) Pathway

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Starting in 2025, the required number of article exams in the ABCC Pathway is now set at 25 every three years for each certification. This approach makes it easier to keep track of article exam progress for those with two or more certifications.

Why is the ABPN changing the requirements for ABCC?

For diplomates holding multiple (i.e., two or more) certifications, tracking ABCC due dates is now clearer and easier to follow for each certification. ABCC due dates for most diplomates will not be the same for each certification, since they will be based on the most recent (or, for new certifications, the initial) award date for each certification. Also, tracking ABCC progress separately for each certification makes it easier for diplomates to choose the ABCC pathway for any additional certifications, or to choose the 10-year Continuing Certification (CC) examination for a certification, without affecting ABCC progress in other certifications.

How many article exams must be passed in total?

Diplomates holding one certification, or choosing to only do the ABCC pathway for one of their certifications, will need to pass 25 article exams (rather than the previous 30) every three years. For them, the new approach does not result in any other changes to the ABCC requirements.

Those choosing the ABCC pathway for two certifications will have to pass 50 article exams in total, the same total number of articles as previously. However, unlike previously, they must pass 25 article exams for each certification.

Those with three or more certifications done through the ABCC pathway also will have to pass 25 article exams for each certification.

What is a passing score for article exams?

For each certification, a diplomate must pass 25 out of a maximum of 34 article exams within each three-year period (i.e., an article passing rate of 73.5%). As was true previously, passing an article exam requires correctly answering four out of five questions (i.e., 80%). Exams may not be retaken once completed.

Does that mean that diplomates with three or more certifications have to do more total number of article exams than previously?

Yes. For example, diplomates with three certifications in the ABCC pathway now have to pass 75 articles in total (compared to 70 articles previously). However, the new

approach means that most of our diplomates will have to pass the same, or fewer, total number of articles. The new approach also makes it simpler for everyone with multiple certifications to track their progress for each, and simpler to choose the ABCC or the 10-year CC examination pathway for each certification.

How do I keep track of the number of article exams I have already passed vs how many I still need to pass? How do I know when my article exams are due?

Your [ABPN Physician Portal](#) now clearly displays the number of article exams passed and the number still needed for each certification along with their respective due dates. Again, the new approach makes it clearer to see your ABCC progress for each of your certifications.

For more information, visit the ABPN's new [Continuing Certification webpage](#) and the updated [ABCC FAQs](#).

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