



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

ABPN Quarterly Update for Diplomates

August 11, 2026

August 2026 Quarterly Update Topics

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Results of Diplomate Survey

The ABPN recently conducted an anonymized survey of diplomates selected at random across our specialties. While the modest response rate, typical for such surveys, precludes drawing quantitative conclusions, the responses did provide the ABPN board with useful feedback and perspectives. Among the key takeaways from the responses:

- The most common diagnoses treated by each specialty align with current ABPN certification and continuing certification examination content outlines
- Most respondents believe that their ABPN certification demonstrates their expertise in keeping with high standards for the specialty
- Most also report that participating in the ABPN Continuing Certification (CC) program fosters lifelong learning, and find that the

- CC program requirements, including the Article-Based CC (ABCC) pathway, are relevant to their patients and clinical practices
- Asked about the value of their board certification, many diplomates appreciated that it provides proof of their training, expertise, and qualifications, encourages meaningful ways of keeping up to date, and serves as reassurance to patients. Some noted that certification differentiates physician specialists from other clinicians. Some also noted that their certification was required by employers, health systems, or insurance companies.
 - Most believe the current frequency of ABPN communications with diplomates is reasonable. The most preferred means of communications are email (such as these Quarterly Updates) and the web-based Physician Portal. Some would like to receive text message reminders, a method option we are currently exploring as a potential 'opt-in' option.
 - The responses also suggest several areas for expanded or new ABPN initiatives, including:
 - Advocating for the value of the board-certified physician
 - Helping physicians understand how to obtain credit for CC requirements from activities they are already doing or are already required to do for medical licensure or by their employer or healthcare system
 - Assisting physicians, particularly those in solo or small group practice settings, tailor their lifelong learning / CC activities to their own individual needs and interests
 - Disseminating research and scholarship about the relationship of initial and continuing certification to patient care and other outcomes
 - Continuing to publicize opportunities to apply for volunteer service on ABPN test development committees

We greatly appreciate the time taken by the diplomates who completed the survey. As we implement further improvements or activities, including as related to their feedback, we will keep all of our diplomates informed!

Reminder: Complete ABCC Article Exams and Continuing Certification (CC) Program Activities



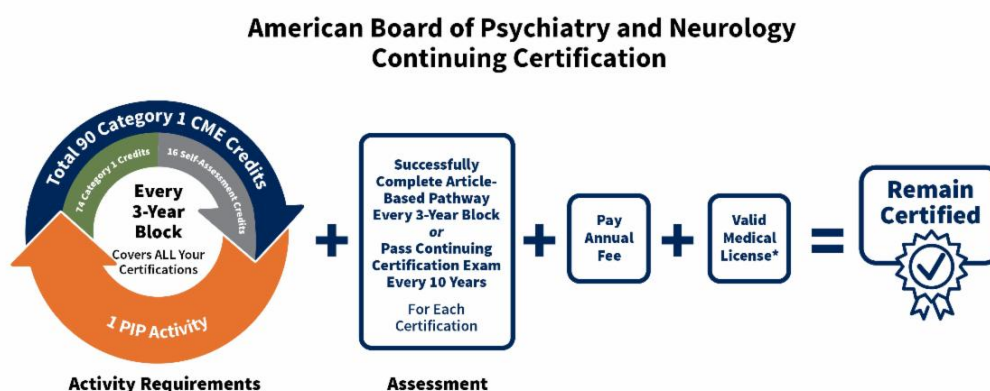
All Continuing Certification (CC) Program requirements are represented in the Physician Portal in ongoing three-year blocks based on your year of board certification/recertification. Your personalized progress in CME, Self-Assessment-CME, Performance in Practice (PIP) modules, and article

exams can be viewed in your [Physician Portal](#).

Don't delay finishing CC activities and article exams. We encourage diplomates to plan ahead and reserve enough time to complete all article exams and activities. Diplomates with active CC certificates in the 2024-2026 three-year block need to successfully complete article exams by **December 31, 2026**, to have them count in lieu of your next scheduled recertification examination. *This deadline will not be extended.*

If you do not successfully complete the article exams by the due date in your Physician Portal, or if you are enrolled in the exam pathway rather than the Article-Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) Pathway, you will need to pass the CC exam by your exam due date shown in your Physician Portal in order to maintain certification. For questions about CC program requirements, email questions@abpn.org or call 847-229-6512.

Board certification status is contingent on meeting all CC requirements, which are largely grouped into three-year CC cycles, as outlined in the [graphic](#) below.



*Must be a full, active, unrestricted US state/territory or Canadian medical license

* Successful completion of ABCC every three-year CC cycle meets the Self-Assessment-CME requirement

* One-time Patient Safety activity required for first Continuing Certification block only

* All ABPN-administered subspecialty certifications, except for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, require maintaining primary specialty certification

Meeting CC Program Requirements

The [ABPN Approved CC Activities List](#), which features ABPN approved activities that are available through professional societies and other organizations, is available on the ABPN website. Diplomates can search for activities that help meet CC requirements for Self-Assessment CME, Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP), and Patient Safety, as well as some of the many CME-credit-bearing activities offered by other organizations. Please note that ABPN does not have a role in approving CME activities;

any Category 1 CME activities may be used toward the ABPN's Continuing Certification requirements. However, Self-Assessment CME, PIP, and Patient Safety activities must be approved by ABPN. If you wish to seek ABPN review and approval for an activity for your practice that is not already on the approved CC activities list, please submit the [preapproval form](#) found on the ABPN website or contact our staff.

ABPN Spotlight On ...

The ABPN's *Spotlight On ...* showcases various ABPN stakeholders and provides a personal look at directors, committee members, and diplomates. You'll get to learn more about the people who help the ABPN carry out its mission.

In the latest [Spotlight On](#), the ABPN talks with [Robert J. Boland, MD](#), who serves on the ABPN Board, and [Cary Fu, MD](#), who serves on the Child Neurology ABCC Committee. Some highlights from the Spotlight On include:

Robert J. Boland is Professor and Vice Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine, The Brown Foundation Endowed Chair in Psychiatry at Baylor, and the Chief of Staff at the Menninger Clinic in Houston, TX. He is currently Vice Chair of the ABPN Board of Directors.

What is the most important thing people should understand about the Board?

The most important thing people should understand about the ABPN is that it represents professional self-regulation at its best. The existence of the ABPN and the other ABMS boards reflects the trust that society places in physicians to establish and maintain standards for our own profession.

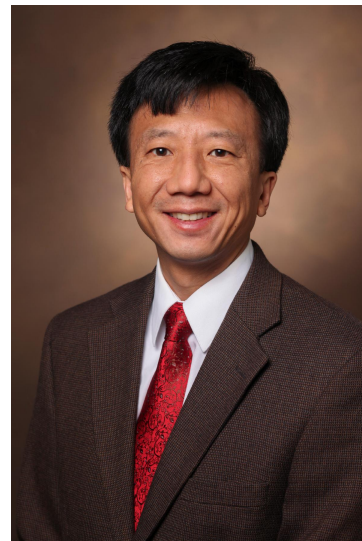
Read Dr. Boland's full [Spotlight On ... here](#).



Cary Fu, MD, is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Neurology at Vanderbilt Medical Center, Nashville, TN.

Please tell us your thoughts about the role and importance of ABPN board certification.

I think the importance of ABPN board certification cannot be understated. It lends credibility to the practice of our specialty in the eyes of our patients and learners. It additionally serves as an important benchmark by which residency programs can design and continue to evolve their didactic curriculum.



Read Dr. Fu's full [Spotlight On ... here](#).

Ask ABPN Staff Questions at Fall Professional Meetings

ABPN staff will be attending the following meetings and will be available in the exhibitors area to assist you with any certification questions:

[Child Neurology Society Annual Meeting](#) on October 14-17, 2026, in Montreal

[American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Annual Meeting](#) on October 26-31, 2026, in Atlanta

[American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Annual Meeting](#) on October 26 – November 1, 2026, in Tampa

[American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry Annual Meeting](#) on November 12-15, 2026, in Memphis

Did You Know?

Make an Impact by Volunteering with an ABPN Test Development Committee

Welcome to **Did You Know?**, a new feature in the *Quarterly Update* that highlights opportunities, resources, and addresses topics of interest (including those suggested by our diplomate survey) to help you stay informed and engaged with ABPN.

This quarter, we're spotlighting a meaningful way to contribute to your specialty: **serving on an ABPN Test Development Committee**.

ABPN relies on physician volunteers to help develop high-quality certification and continuing certification assessments in psychiatry,

neurology, child neurology, and our subspecialties. Volunteer committee members play a vital role in ensuring that certification examinations and article-based assessments content reflects current clinical practice and the knowledge physicians need to provide exceptional patient care.

Opportunities are available on committees that develop both **certification examinations** and **Article-Based Continuing Certification (ABCC)** pathway assessments.

To be eligible, physicians must:

- Be ABPN certified in the applicable specialty or subspecialty.
- Be actively participating in ABPN Continuing Certification (CC) and current with CC requirements in the ABPN Physician Portal.
- Have at least three years of post-training clinical experience in their specialty and, when applicable, subspecialty.

Volunteering offers a unique opportunity to give back to your profession, collaborate with respected colleagues from across the country, and help shape the future of board certification.

Interested in getting involved? Learn more about eligibility, responsibilities, and how to apply to become an [ABPN Test Development Committee member](#).

New Webpage Features Exam Schedule

The ABPN has unveiled a newly reformatted [Exam Schedule webpage](#) that lists certification and continuing certification exam dates for both 2026 and 2027. The listings are categorized by specialty and subspecialty exams, making for easier viewing.

www.abpn.org
questions@abpn.org



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