



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

ABPN Quarterly Update for Diplomates

June 16, 2025

June 2025 Quarterly Update Topics

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New Changes to Continuing Certification (CC)

New requirements for Article-Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) Pathway

Beginning now, the required number of article exams in the ABCC Pathway is now reduced to *20* every three years for each certification. This is a further reduction from the change to 25 articles announced earlier this year.

For more information, please [read the announcement](#). Full details of the ABCC Pathway can be found in the [ABCC Pathway FAQs](#).

The [Physician Portal](#) indicates how many article exams a diplomate needs to complete per certification, as well as the deadline to complete article exams. A maximum of 27 attempts are allowed for each certification, i.e., one may not fail more than 7 article exams in a 3-year block, which maintains the longstanding ABCC article exam passing rate as close to 75% as possible ($20/27 = 74.1\%$). Other parameters of the ABCC Pathway remain unchanged: passing each article exam requires answering 4 out of 5 questions correctly; exams cannot be retaken after completion; the article exams are untimed and 'open book;' and diplomates must attest that they have not discussed the exam questions or answers with others or used artificial intelligence tools to answer them.

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

New requirements for Self-Assessment (SA) – CME

Also beginning now for diplomates in the Continuing Certification (CC) Program, the Self-Assessment CME requirement is reduced from 24 SA-CME credits to 16 SA-CME credits per 3-year CC block.

Diplomates successfully completing the ABCC Pathway in a 3-year CC block will continue to fulfill the requirements for 16 SA-CME credits — which now means that they will have fulfilled *all* their SA-CME credit requirements.

As we have gained experience with the ABCC pathway, we have learned that the ABCC article exams provide considerable and valuable feedback sufficient for CC purposes. These new changes streamline our CC requirements while maintaining their rigor and value.

Diplomates in the CC Examination pathway will still need to fulfill the requirement of 16 SA-CME credits per 3-year block by [ABPN-approved SA-CME credit-bearing activities](#), or through the [other activities accepted \(e.g., peer-reviewed publication, submission of a peer-reviewed grant, etc.\)](#).

Also please note that *all* diplomates will still need to obtain a total of 90 Category 1 CME credits per 3-year CC block. SA-CME credit-bearing activities will continue to count toward that total CME credit requirement; therefore, diplomates who obtain 16 SA-CME credits will need an additional 74 Category 1 CME credits to meet the CME requirement.

For more information, visit our [SA-CME FAQ document](#).

All CC Program requirements can be viewed visit the ABPN's [Continuing Certification webpage](#) in the infographic below, which is also on the ABPN website and Physician Portal:

American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology Continuing Certification



- *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

Other CC Updates

New Professionalism ABCC article attestation

The ABPN is committed to promoting the continued lifelong development of professionalism knowledge and skills in our diplomates. New for 2025, diplomates in the ABCC Pathway must attest that they have selected and passed the examination for at least one article 'tagged' as having content related to professionalism in each 3-year CC block.

Diplomates are not required to do so for each of their certifications; some subspecialties may not yet have professionalism-tagged articles, but all primary specialties and many subspecialties already have articles available.

Articles tagged on the exam platform for professionalism may include elements such as professional conduct, medical ethics, or aspects of interpersonal communication. On the page in which you access the publisher link to the article, there will be prominent icons informing you that the article has a Professionalism component to the text:



On the article page, a label denoting Professionalism also will be visible:

— Topic 09: Professionalism, Forensics, Ethics

A maximum of 4 articles may be taken per topic

Ethical considerations for precision psychiatry: A roadmap for research and clinical practice

Assessment 1 Article available Professionalism Article No cost

Next →

2025 CC Deadlines for Article Exams and CC Activities

Diplomates in the ABCC Pathway with active CC certificates in the 2023-2025 three-year block need to successfully complete article exams indicated in their [Physician Portal](#) by **December 31, 2025**, to have them count in lieu of your next scheduled recertification examination. This deadline will not be extended. For questions about CC program requirements, email questions@abpn.org or call 847-229-6512.

Practice Pathway for Neurocritical Care Closing in 2026

The 2026 NCC certification examination will be the final opportunity to use the 'practice pathway' for eligibility. To clarify, this means that *after 2026*, only graduates of ACGME-accredited NCC fellowships will be eligible to take the ABPN NCC certification exam. If you are interested in becoming certified in NCC but have not completed an ACGME-accredited NCC fellowship, you must apply for the 2026 NCC examination by the deadlines found [here](#). NCC training requirements and information about eligibility can be [viewed on the ABPN website](#).

ABPN Hosts Crucial Issues Forum on Improving Outcomes Assessments in Training

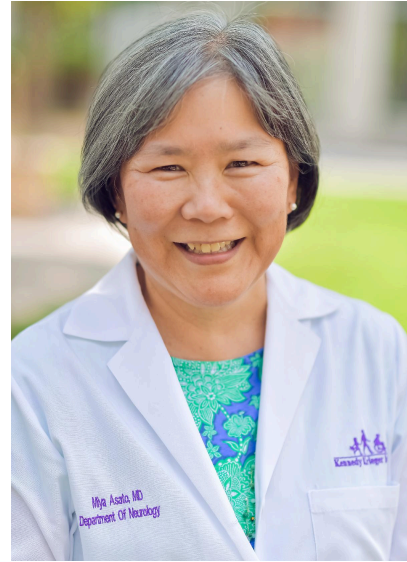
The ABPN hosted its Crucial Issues Forum in April that focused on improving outcomes assessments in graduate medical education, an important aspect of 'competency-based medical education' (CBME). The Forum included keynote speakers, panelists, and attendees from psychiatry and neurology professional organizations. A publication on the Forum will be distributed later this year with a summary and outcomes from the Forum. While the ABPN board of directors is not currently considering 'time-variable' training, the board is considering how to best foster improvements in the assessments of core training outcomes, to provide better feedback to residents, help tailor rotation experiences to individual learner needs, and yield higher quality information about trainees' readiness for independent practice after graduation from residency.

ABPN Spotlight On ...

The ABPN's *Spotlight On ...* showcases various ABPN diplomates and provides a personal look at directors, committee members, and other board-certified physician colleagues.

In the latest [Spotlight On](#), the ABPN talks with diplomates [Miya Asato, MD](#), and [Petros Levounis, MD](#). Some highlights from the Spotlight On include:

Miya Asato, MD, is a pediatric neurologist and Vice President of Training at Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, MD.



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

There are very few training and board certification pathways focused on disability-focused areas of medicine. The ABPN board certification is an important indicator to the public, families, and patients that their physician has been trained in evidence-informed practice and complex care management. Read Dr. Asato's [full Spotlight On ... here](#).

Petros Levounis, MD, is Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry, and Associate Dean, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and Chief of Service, University Hospital, Newark, NJ.



What have your experiences been like in your interactions with the ABPN as a candidate or as a diplomate?

Back in the day when we had the ABPN Part II oral exams, I was honored to be an examiner. The responsibility to the candidates, but also to their future patients, made us examine each psychiatrist's candidacy with great diligence and sense of duty. Read Dr. Levounis' [full Spotlight On ... here](#).

ABPN Issues 2024 Annual Report

The ABPN issued its [2024 Annual Report](#) in April 2025. The report is typically released at this time in order to contain complete data about the prior year's examinations. The 16-page report includes examination results and statistics, committee and presentation lists, and board directors' honors and awards.

ABPN grant awards applications due July 28th, 2025

[Applications](#) for the 2026-2027 ABPN Faculty Innovation in Education Award and the 2026-2027 ABPN Dorthea Juul, PhD, Education Research Award are now available. The submission deadlines for these grant awards are July 28, 2025. The ABPN has established these awards to support the development of academic leaders in psychiatry and neurology.

The ABPN Faculty Innovation in Education Award is intended to support the development of innovative education and/or evaluation projects that promote effective residency/fellowship training or lifelong learning of practicing psychiatrists and neurologists.

The ABPN Dorthea Juul, PhD, Education Research Award supports research projects that deepen our understanding of the development, maintenance, and assessment of competence in psychiatry and neurology.

Apply for 2026 Exams

The [ABPN exam schedule](#) for 2026 is available online. ABPN offers both Spring and Fall exam dates for select CC recertification exams to give diplomates more choices within a given year.

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