



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

ABPN Quarterly Update for Diplomates

August 13, 2025

August 2025 Quarterly Update Topics

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ABPN Introduces New Academic Pathway to Board Certification Eligibility

The Academic Pathway is a pilot alternate pathway to ABPN certification, intended for psychiatrists and neurologists who do not meet standard ABPN eligibility criteria but have demonstrated accomplishments and further future potential as academic faculty members. The Pathway is open to eligible applicants beginning with the 2026 primary specialty certification examinations. The pilot will be available to applicants each year through the 2032 examinations. The Academic Pathway is open to all psychiatry- or neurology-trained physicians who meet the qualifications described [here](#). The website also contains information on how to apply for the pathway.

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 article exams and CC activities. We encourage diplomates to plan ahead and reserve enough time to complete all article exams and activities. Diplomates with active CC certificates in the 2023-2025 three-year block need to successfully complete article exams by **December 31, 2025**, to have them count in lieu of your next scheduled CC examination. *There are no deadline extensions.*

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 (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.

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

Meeting Your CC Activity Requirements

With the recently announced changes to the [SA-CME requirements](#), we're taking this opportunity to remind you of a resource available on the ABPN website, the [ABPN Approved CC Activities List](#), which features ABPN-approved activities that are available through professional societies and other organizations. 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.

NEW: Diplomates can now earn CME credits from the [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#) for meeting the three-year block of Continuing Certification requirements. ABPN diplomates who are currently meeting CC Program requirements can claim 60 AMA PRA Category 1 credits by submitting their current 'CC Status Certificate' from their Physician Portal (located in the lower right column) and completing the required AMA form.

Crucial Issues Forum Report on Improving Outcomes Assessments in Graduate Medical Education

The ABPN 2025 Crucial Issues Forum, held in April at ABPN headquarters, focused on identifying next steps in improving the assessments of core learner outcomes in psychiatry and neurology residency training. Summaries of the speaker presentations and group discussions are available in the recently published [Crucial Issues Forum Report](#).

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 [Nicholas Silvestri, MD](#), and [Marcy Verduin, MD](#). Some highlights from the Spotlight On include:

Nicholas Silvestri, MD, is a professor of neurology and associate dean for student and academic affairs at the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Buffalo, NY.



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

It is critically important to remain up to date in the quickly changing landscape of diagnostic and therapeutic advances in neurology. Continuing certification, particularly with the article-based examinations, helps to ensure that we fulfill our obligations as lifelong learners, and enable ourselves to take the best care of patients and teach up to date information to our students.

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

Marcy Verduin, MD, is a Professor and Associate Dean for Students, Departments of Medical Education and Clinical Sciences, at University of Central Florida College of Medicine, Orlando, FL.



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

I have thoroughly enjoyed my work with the ABPN over the years. Initially I served as an examiner for the ABPN Part II oral exams. I appreciated the team's dedication

to absolute integrity and doing due diligence in assessing each candidate's competence, and the work was very meaningful to me. I also served as the Vice Chair of the inaugural Article-Based Continuing Certification Committee for addiction psychiatry, working with the committee to select the initial articles and write the associated questions for the addiction psychiatry continuing certification process.

Read Dr. Verduin'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 to assist you with any certification questions:

[Neurocritical Care Society Annual Meeting](#) on September 18-21, 2025, in Montreal

[Child Neurology Society Annual Meeting](#) on October 8-11, 2025, in Charlotte

[American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Annual Meeting](#) on October 20-25, 2025, in Chicago

[Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Annual Meeting](#) on November 19-22, 2025, in San Antonio

[American Epilepsy Society Annual Meeting](#) on December 5-9, 2025, in Atlanta

Apply for 2026 Exams

The [ABPN certification and continuing certification exam schedule](#) for 2026 is available on the ABPN website. ABPN offers both Spring and Fall exam dates for select Continuing Certification (CC) exams to give diplomates more choices within a given year.

NEW: 2026 will be the final year ABPN offers combined CC exams, that is, exams covering two or more specialties or subspecialties for physicians in the CC examination pathway for those certifications. The ABPN Board of Directors has decided to discontinue combined CC exams due to the popularity of the ABCC Pathway and the lack of demand for combined exams. Single CC examinations will continue to be offered (as an alternative to the ABCC pathway) for all ABPN certifications.

Exam fees in 2026 will again remain unchanged, although inflationary pressures make it likely that fees may need to be increased in a future year.

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