



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

Frequently Asked Questions for ABPN Diplomates Certified in Brain Injury Medicine

What is ABPN's role with the subspecialty of Brain Injury Medicine?

For the subspecialty of Brain Injury Medicine (BIM), the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR) is the primary administrative Board; in other words, the ABPMR develops and administers the assessments for BIM. The ABPN is responsible for credentialing applications for our diplomates, and for issuing the certifications for diplomates who qualify by passing the BIM assessments.

How do I meet the Brain Injury Medicine Continuing Certification/CC assessment requirement?

Per ABPMR policy, all BIM-certified diplomates must participate in the BIM Longitudinal Assessment (LA-BIM) to fulfill the assessment component of your continuing certification requirements for your BIM certification.

The BIM Re-Entry Examination is only available as a re-entry pathway for diplomates who do not meet the performance standard in LA-BIM, in other words, only for diplomates whose BIM certification has lapsed or is at risk of lapsing. The Re-Entry Examination will be offered annually for this purpose.

Please also note that the ABPN's Article-Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway is not available for BIM, since we are not the primary administrative Board for BIM.

What is the Brain Injury Medicine Longitudinal Assessment?

The ABPMR describes the LA-BIM as a flexible learning platform designed to assist diplomates in keeping up to date in their BIM knowledge with relevant resources, provide immediate feedback, and identify gaps for learning and improvement over time. It aims to help you continue your certification and improve your skills by answering quarterly questions on brain injury medicine, which can be done conveniently using your own computer or tablet.

When am I eligible to begin LA-BIM?

The ABPMR began offering the longitudinal assessment for Brain Injury Medicine (LA-BIM) for continuing certification in 2024.

All current BIM diplomates, and all physicians who become newly certified in BIM, are required to participate in LA-BIM to continue their certification, regardless of certification end dates or when they last took the BIM examination.

How will I know if I meet the LA-BIM performance standard?

Your performance will be displayed on your LA-BIM dashboard and updated in real time – if you are wondering how you are doing, just sign in to your [LA-BIM dashboard](#) through the **ABPMR website**. You must refer to your LA-BIM dashboard through your ABPMR account for your LA progress and associated deadlines.

If you continue to meet the LA-BIM performance standard set by the ABPMR, your Brain Injury Medicine *assessment* requirement for continuing certification (CC) will be fulfilled.

How is LA-BIM structured?

LA-BIM is structured as follows:

- Quarters 1-3: Traditional multiple-choice items; reattempt questions for missed questions in subsequent quarters.
- Quarter 4: Reattempts from missed Q3 questions + article-based questions with immediate reattempts if you answer an article-based question incorrectly. *Unanswered* questions from previous quarters *cannot* be made up and will be marked as incorrect.
- Your LA dashboard will be available for you to keep up with your quarterly progress and requirements, and review items/sources from past quarters.

The LA-BIM program encourages learning, so diplomates earn full credit for correctly answering reattempt questions. For example, if you answer a question wrong in quarter one, you will see the same question again in quarter two. If you answer the reattempt correctly, the correct response will replace the initial incorrect response. ABPMR recommends that you review the rationale and references between attempts so that you learn from the incorrect response and answer it correctly in the next quarter.

For article-based questions, you will see a reattempt in the same quarter. The same logic applies: if you answer a reattempt question correctly, the correct answer will replace the incorrect initial response.

What if I do not complete all the questions during a quarter?

At the end of the quarter, all unanswered questions will be marked as incorrect. Unanswered questions do not carry over to the next quarter.

How do I study for the LA?

The longitudinal assessment is different from an examination. Instead of implying “study-then-test” thinking, think of the platform as the study tool, because participation in LA-BIM is designed to help you learn and improve over time. As you answer questions, the platform will show you the areas in which you have knowledge gaps, and it will provide resources for improvement and further learning – and the spaced repetition feature will keep bringing back topics with opportunity for improvement.

What happens if I am unsuccessful in the LA/do not meet the performance standard?

Throughout your participation in LA-BIM, you will receive immediate feedback regarding correct and incorrect answers as well as rationales and resources to help you learn – your [LA-BIM dashboard](#) will continually update, showing you in real time whether you are meeting the standard. ABPMR expects you will learn and improve over time, and there will be plenty of advance notice if you are not on track to meet the standard.

However, if diplomates do not meet the performance standard in both 5-year LA cycles while enrolled in LA, they cannot continue in LA-BIM and must pass the Brain Injury Medicine Re-Entry examination, *which is offered by ABPMR once per year in late summer/early fall*. ABPN diplomates would do this in their ‘Assessment Due’ year as outlined in their [ABPN Physician Portal](#) in order to avoid a lapse in certification. Applications can be found in your [ABPN Physician Portal](#) account. After passing the exam, diplomates will be automatically re-enrolled in the LA to fulfill the *assessment* component of your continuing certification requirements for your BIM certification.

Am I eligible for the LA if my certification has lapsed?

The LA can be used to regain certification; however, the ABPMR requires 5 years of successful participation in LA-BIM before one can become recertified, so a physician will be reported as “Not Certified” until that time. A diplomate’s status will only change at that time if they pass the LA and are also meeting all other Continuing Certification requirements outlined in their ABPN Physician Portal. A physician whose certification has lapsed may regain their certification more quickly by taking the next administration of the Brain Injury Medicine Re-Entry Examination, *which is offered every year*.

Is my Brain Injury Medicine certification dependent on my primary specialty certification?

Yes, you must maintain your ABPN primary specialty certification (i.e., in psychiatry, neurology, or child neurology) in order to continue your subspecialty certification in BIM. If you let your primary specialty certification lapse, then your BIM certification will also immediately lapse.