



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

Policy Regarding Medical or Other Emergencies

The Board requires candidates to sit for examinations for which they have applied and/or are scheduled. For those participating in the Article Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway, the Board requires diplomates to complete all ABCC assessments by the deadline in the ABPN Physician Portal. The Board acknowledges that unforeseen acute emergencies may prevent candidates from sitting for examinations or completing all necessary ABCC assessments by the deadline to which they have applied and/or are scheduled.

Candidates unable to sit for their scheduled examination due to an unforeseen medical or other emergency:

Candidates who are unable to sit for their scheduled examination due to an unforeseen medical or other emergency should submit a personal statement and supporting documentation of the emergency to the Board office, no later than 30 days after the date of the examination. The Board will then evaluate the documentation and determine whether the absence is excusable. In determining whether an absence is excusable, the Board will consider whether the claimed emergency could have been anticipated and/or foreseen prior to the examination. Candidates suffering from pre-existing and/or chronic conditions generally will not be excused for medical or other emergencies relating to such conditions. If the absence is determined excusable, the candidate's examination fee will be refunded and such candidates will be required to re-apply in order to sit for examination.

Diplomates unable to complete their scheduled ABCC assessments by the deadline due to an unforeseen medical or other emergency:

Since ABCC is designed to be an ongoing longitudinal assessment with a built in 'catch-up' only after the first 3-year block, while also allowing multiple article exams to be completed in a short period of time, extensions of ABCC deadlines are limited to diplomates who: 1) have unforeseen acute emergencies in *the last calendar month* of either their second or third 3-year blocks, i.e., in the last calendar month of either year 6 or year 9 of their overall ten-year assessment cycle; and 2) have already successfully completed at least half the number of required ABCC article assessments due, as reflected in their Physician Portal, before the unforeseen acute emergency arose.

Any granted extension will be limited to one (1) additional calendar month.

Diplomates requesting such an extension due to an unforeseen acute emergency should submit a personal statement and supporting documentation of the emergency to the Board office, no later than

30 days after the applicable ABCC deadline in the ABPN Physician Portal. The Board will then evaluate the documentation and determine whether the incompleteness is excusable. In determining whether an incompleteness is excusable, the Board will consider whether the claimed emergency could have been anticipated and/or foreseen prior to the examination. Diplomates suffering from pre-existing and/or chronic conditions generally will not be excused for medical or other emergencies relating to such conditions.

In certain cases, determined by the Board, diplomates may need to switch to the Continuing Certification exam pathway to maintain certification.