



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

Primary Certification Requirements for Subspecialties

All ABPN-administered subspecialty certifications, except for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, require maintaining primary specialty certifications.

ABPN-administered Subspecialties	Administrative Board	Must Maintain Primary Certification?
Addiction Psychiatry	ABPN	Yes
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	ABPN	No
Clinical Neurophysiology	ABPN	Yes
Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry	ABPN	Yes
Epilepsy	ABPN	Yes
Forensic Psychiatry	ABPN	Yes
Geriatric Psychiatry	ABPN	Yes
Neurocritical Care	ABPN	Yes
Neurodevelopmental Disabilities	ABPN	Yes
Neuromuscular Medicine	ABPN	Yes
Vascular Neurology	ABPN	Yes

Effective July 2019, those ABPN diplomates currently certified in a multidisciplinary subspecialty administered by an ABMS member board **other than** the ABPN now have the **option** of following the lead of the administering ABMS member board regarding their primary certification requirement. Under this policy, requirements for diplomates who hold ABPN-administered subspecialties have not changed. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is the only ABPN-administered subspecialty which does not require maintenance of primary certification. Please refer to the requirements tables below.

Multi-disciplinary Subspecialties	Administrative Board	Must Maintain Primary Certification?
Brain Injury	ABPMR	Yes
Pain Medicine	ABA	No
Sleep Medicine	ABIM	No

Under this policy, ABPN diplomates in the following multidisciplinary subspecialties only, **may** follow the administrative board’s policies concerning maintaining or not maintaining primary certification. Please consult the appropriate website for policy information:

- Pain Medicine: [American Board of Anesthesiology](#)
- Sleep Medicine: [American Board of Internal Medicine](#)

ABPN diplomates must continue to satisfy all ABPN Continuing Certification requirements (Parts I-IV) to maintain subspecialty certification.

Under this policy, requirements for diplomates who hold ABPN-administered subspecialties have not changed. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is the only ABPN-administered subspecialty which does not require maintenance of primary certification. Please refer to the requirements tables below.

If your current subspecialty certification in brain injury medicine, hospice and palliative medicine, pain medicine and/or sleep medicine has lapsed, consult your [ABPN Physician Portal account](#) for more information about maintaining your primary and/or your subspecialty certification in the future.

Please carefully review the [Statement on Intent to Drop Primary Certification](#), which includes important details and implications of changing your primary certification.

The ABPN encourages diplomates to investigate and carefully review the policies of various external stakeholders (including but not limited to the state licensing board, medical staff, and insurance panels) and any contracts that he/she may be a party to in an effort to ensure that dropping primary ABPN certification will not have a negative impact on the diplomate, his/her practice, or these other entities.

For more information, please contact us at questions@abpn.org.