



## American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

# How to Regain Certification: A Guide for Diplomates with Lapsed Certification(s)

Diplomates whose certification has lapsed, i.e., who have lost certification, may regain certification either by passing the traditional [10-Year Continuing Certification \(CC\) examination](#) or by successfully completing the [Article-Based Continuing Certification \(ABCC\) pathway](#).

**Unlike the traditional 10-Year CC examination, which provides a quick pass/fail decision, the ABCC assessment pathway does not issue a final performance decision until the end of the 3-year assessment cycle, regardless of how quickly the article examinations are completed within that 3-year assessment cycle.**

### WHICH PATHWAY IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

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#### USE ABCC PATHWAY IF...

- You are able to wait for a 3-year period to regain primary specialty certification
- You prefer article-based assessment over a multiple-choice exam

#### USE CC EXAM PATHWAY IF...

- You want to regain primary specialty certification as soon as possible.
- You prefer a single multiple-choice exam

### What are the eligibility requirements to apply for regaining certification?

Applicants must have an active, full, and unrestricted medical license and must have completed one block of Continuing Certification activity requirements within the past three years, including:

- 90 Category 1 CME credits (includes 16 Self-Assessment (SA) CME credits)
- 16 Self-Assessment CME credits
- 1 Performance Improvement in Practice (PIP) activity
- 1 Patient Safety activity, if applicable (see your Physician Portal)

Documentation of completed eligibility requirements, along with the fees, must be submitted at the time of application. **Applications missing required documentation will not be approved, and ABPN will retain the processing fee.**

### **How many certifications can be regained at one time after a lapse in primary specialty certification?**

Both assessment pathways — the CC Exam Pathway and ABCC Pathway — are limited to regaining one lapsed primary specialty certification (i.e., Psychiatry, Neurology, or Child Neurology) at a time.

### **Can lapsed subspecialty certifications be regained at the same time as a primary certification through the Exam Pathway or the ABCC Pathway?**

No, lapsed subspecialty certifications are not eligible to be regained at the same time as a primary certification.

### **If my primary specialty certification has lapsed, can I regain any subspecialty certifications?**

Certification in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP) can be regained, because its certification is not dependent on maintaining a primary specialty certification. All other ABPN subspecialties require maintaining certification in the primary specialty, and so those subspecialty certifications cannot be regained until primary specialty certification has been regained.

### **Can a diplomate use the ABCC Pathway to regain only a CAP certification?**

Yes. A diplomate may use the ABCC Pathway to regain a lapsed CAP certification independently.

### **Can the ABCC Pathway be used for subspecialty certifications *after* regaining a primary certification?**

Yes. Once primary certification has been regained using the ABCC Pathway, it may then be used to regain lapsed subspecialty certifications.

### **Can a diplomate use the ABCC Pathway to regain multiple lapsed subspecialty certifications at the same time after regaining primary certification?**

Yes. The ABCC Pathway can be used to regain more than one subspecialty certification *after* regaining primary certification. A diplomate must apply to regain subspecialty certification(s) after regaining primary certification and pay the appropriate application fees for each subspecialty certification.

### **How does a non-time limited certificate holder apply for regaining certification after a lapse?**

Please review the 'Continuing Certification for Non-Time Limited Certificate Holders' section of the [CC Program booklet](#) for details.

### **How does a diplomate apply for regaining certification after a lapse?**

Please refer to our website for details on application deadlines and fees for the CC Exam pathway or the ABCC pathway.

See the [CC Program booklet](#) and [ABCC FAQs](#) for further details.  
Contact ABPN staff for more information or assistance at [Questions@abpn.org](mailto:Questions@abpn.org).