



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

Responsibilities for Article-Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) Committee Members

The ABPN ABCC program development follows a continuous, yearlong cycle. The first half of the year focuses on selecting journal articles that are used as the basis for examination questions. The second half centers on writing and reviewing questions for the selected articles. The flow chart below illustrates this development cycle:



The committee members function at various stages throughout this process. Their responsibilities are based on the needs of the process. Here is a brief scope of the work of a committee member:

- The formal appointment of a committee membership typically begins January 1, though may be at another time during the year based on committee needs.
- New committee members must attend an orientation and an item writing workshop. These are both virtual sessions. The orientation acquaints the member with committee responsibilities and gives them background on identifying articles for the first assignment. The item writing workshop introduces the member to the best practices of writing questions.
- Committee members are required to attend a virtual article review meeting in the first half of the year and an in-person item review meeting in the second half of the year held at ABPN headquarters

in Deerfield, Illinois. The ABPN will cover the cost of transportation and accommodation for the meetings.

- Before the article review meeting, committee members are assigned to submit 6-8 articles gathered from recent literature. Committee members are also tasked with providing a second opinion for the articles submitted by another committee member in their assigned topics.
- Before the item review meeting, members are required to construct 16 questions related to the finalized articles (4 questions per article). Members are required to submit the new items on a timely basis. They are also assigned to preview items written by other members and present suggestions on those items at the committee meetings.
- Committee chairs monitor committee member performance, including quality of articles identified and item writing, and meeting preparation, attendance and participation, and give feedback as needed.