

**2014 Bulletin**  
for  
**Subspecialty Certification**  
in  
**Hospice and Palliative Medicine**

**The American Board of  
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Inc.**



**2915 Vine St., Dallas, TX 75204**

*First in Women's Health*

**This Bulletin, issued in Spring, 2014 represents  
the official statement of the 2014-5 requirements  
for subspecialty certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine**

## Important Information for all Candidates

1. The Practice Pathway for certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) is no longer accepted. Candidates for certification must have completed a minimum of 12 months of fellowship training as described below.
2. The American Board of Internal Medicine is responsible for the development and administration of the HPM certification examination. Diplomates of ABOG apply for HPM certification through the ABOG website.
3. Candidates must call the ABOG Examination Division for a link to the HPM application.
4. All correspondence with ABOG should be sent by a service that has tracking capability.
5. All fees must be paid by credit card through the ABOG website ([www.abog.org](http://www.abog.org)) and are payable in US Dollars only.
6. Deadlines are based on receipt of the information in the ABOG office. It is the candidate's responsibility to meet all deadlines. ABOG is not responsible to notify a candidate of impending deadlines. (The USPS does not guarantee on-time delivery. It is suggested that it not be used for materials that must meet a deadline.)
7. It is the responsibility of each candidate to be aware of the current requirements for certification as an ABOG subspecialist. ABOG does not assume responsibility for notifying a candidate of changing requirements for admissibility to any examination or pending loss of eligibility. Candidates must meet the requirements published in the *HPM Subspecialty Bulletin* for the year in which they are to take an examination.
8. Subspecialty certification is time-limited.
9. Candidates should be familiar with the material under the "Policies" tab on the ABOG home page.
10. Additional information about the examination can be found on the ABIM website.

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# Hospice and Palliative Medicine

The Hospice and Palliative Medicine Certification Program has been developed by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA), the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM), the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM), the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG), the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP), the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR), the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN), the American Board of Radiology (ABR), and the American Board of Surgery (ABS). The examination is administered to candidates from all Boards at the same time in the same testing centers. The American Board of Internal Medicine is responsible for administering the examination. The examination was given for the first time in 2008.

## October 2, 2014 Written Examination

### Application Process

1. Applications will be accepted on-line at [www.abog.org](http://www.abog.org) beginning March 1, 2014. The final day applications will be accepted is 5 pm CST May 30, 2014.
2. The fee for the test must be paid by credit card through the ABOG website at the time of application. The application fee is not refundable nor will it be credited toward a subsequent application.
3. The applicant must supply ABOG with an email address as part of the application process. It is the candidate's responsibility to notify ABOG of any change in this address.
4. A fellowship affidavit form will automatically print during the application process. The form must be signed by the current Program Director, and faxed to the ABOG office. This form serves to document satisfactory completion or near completion of the fellowship training. (The candidate must use a computer with a connection to a printer.)

5. Following submission of the on-line application form and payment of the appropriate fee, the candidate's application will be considered in accordance with the requirements in effect for that year. (See below.) The candidate will be notified of admissibility to the written examination.

## Requirements

1. The candidate must hold an active certificate in Obstetrics and Gynecology or one of its official subspecialties (Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Gynecologic Oncology, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility or Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery). If the candidate holds a time-limited certificate, they must be actively enrolled in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process.
2. The candidate must have satisfactorily completed a minimum of 12 months of clinical hospice and palliative medicine fellowship training in an ACGME accredited program.
3. A fellowship affidavit form must be signed by the current Program Director, and faxed to the ABOG office. The form will have printed during the application process. This form serves to document satisfactory completion of the fellowship training. (The candidate must use a computer with a connection to a printer.)
4. The candidate must have demonstrated good moral and ethical behavior in the practice of medicine, and in interactions with peers, other medical personnel and patients. A felony conviction will be considered evidence of failure to meet this standard.
5. Falsification of any information or failure to disclose any adverse action will result in a deferral of a candidate's eligibility to sit for the written examination for a period of at least 3 years. If the candidate is allowed to sit for the examination at the end of the deferral period, the candidate must meet all requirements in effect at the end of the deferral period.

## Content

Exam content is determined by a pre-established blueprint, or table of specifications. The blueprint was developed by the Subspecialty Board on Hospice and Palliative Medicine and is reviewed annually and updated as needed for currency. Trainees, training program directors, and certified practitioners in the discipline are surveyed periodically to provide feedback and inform the blueprinting process.

The primary medical content categories of the blueprint are shown below, with the percentage assigned to each for a typical exam:

Approach to care	5%
Psychosocial and spiritual considerations	11%
Impending death	9%
Grief and bereavement	5%
Medical management	45%
Communication and teamwork	6%
Ethical and legal decision making	7%
Prognostication and natural history of serious illness	8%

## **Format**

The examination is composed of single-best-answer multiple-choice questions, predominantly describing patient scenarios that occur in practice settings. Clinical information presented may include various media illustrating relevant findings, such as diagnostic imaging studies

Questions pose tasks such as the following:

- making a diagnosis
- determining a treatment or management plan
- ordering diagnostic tests
- recognizing clinical features of a disease
- determining means of prevention, screening, staging, or follow-up

## **Scheduling an Examination**

If your application is accepted, your name will be forwarded to ABIM. Information about scheduling your examination will be provided to you at the email address you entered when you applied.

## **Fees and Deadlines**

**March 1, 2014 to 5 pm CST May 30, 2014**

**\$2500**

The final deadline to complete the on-line application and pay the applicable fees is 5 pm CST May 30, 2014. No application will be accepted after this date and time.

After approval, if the candidate experiences an event that prevents sitting for the examination, the Board should be notified immediately. If the request is made prior to September 1, 2014, and if the review committee agrees that the request is due to circumstances beyond the control of the candidate, the examination portion of the fee (\$2000) may be refunded. The review committee will not consider any request that is based primarily on non-emergency matters.

## **Candidate Disability**

ABOG shall not exclude any candidate from examination solely because of a disability if the ABOG is provided with notice of the disability in time to permit the ABOG to make such adjustments in the examination as are reasonably necessary to accommodate the disability. The candidate must provide sufficient documentation to permit the ABOG to verify the existence, nature and extent of the disability no fewer than 90 days prior to the date of the examination. The documentation must specify the requirements or accommodations deemed necessary to overcome or compensate for the disability. In addition, the candidate must supply any additional information the ABOG may subsequently request.

If any of the requirements cannot reasonably be provided, ABOG will notify the candidate and will indicate those alternative accommodations which it deems appropriate in consideration of the disability claimed and documented, and the integrity of the examination.

If the candidate fails to notify ABOG of a disability 90 days before the examination and fails to achieve a passing grade, that candidate may not appeal the results of the examination, but shall be entitled to sit for the next regularly scheduled written examination, but must pay a new application and examination fee.

If a candidate claims that their examination results were adversely affected by illness, injury or other temporary physical impairment at the time of the examination, that candidate may not appeal the results of the examination. However, if the candidate provides sufficient evidence of such illness, injury or impairment, they shall be entitled to sit for the next regularly scheduled written examination, but must pay a new application and examination fee.