

2015 Bulletin
for
Subspecialty Certification
in
**Female Pelvic Medicine and
Reconstructive Surgery**
for
Senior Applicants

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



2915 Vine St., Dallas, TX 75204

First in Women's Health

This Bulletin, issued in Fall, 2014, represents the official statement of the requirements for subspecialty certification for gynecologists in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS).

It applies only to those gynecologists who qualify as "Senior Candidates" (formerly known as "grandfathers/grandmothers"). Applications to participate in the certification process can be found at www.abog.org.

Urologists applying as "Senior Candidates" should contact the American Board of Urology for information on applying for subspecialty certification in FPMRS.

Important Information for all Senior Gynecology

Candidates for Subspecialty Certification in FPMRS

- 1. Correspondence with the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) should be sent by a service that has tracking capability.**
- 2. Fees must be paid by credit card through the ABOG website (www.abog.org). Fees are payable in US Dollars.**
- 3. Deadlines are based on receipt of the information in the ABOG office, not the date of shipping. It is the candidate's responsibility to meet all deadlines. ABOG is not responsible to notify a candidate of impending deadlines.**
- 4. It is the responsibility of each candidate to be aware of the current requirements for certification as an ABOG FPMRS subspecialist. ABOG does not assume responsibility for notifying a candidate of changing requirements for admissibility to any of its examinations or pending loss of eligibility. Candidates must meet the requirements published in the *FPMRS Subspecialty Bulletin* for the year in which they are to take an examination.**
- 5. Subspecialty certification is time-limited. Each FPMRS Diplomate must enter the subspecialty Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program in the year following certification and must successfully complete all assignments to maintain certification. Physicians who hold non-time-limited certificates in Basic Obstetrics and Gynecology must enter the FPMRS MOC process to maintain subspecialty certification.**
- 6. Candidates for the Senior FPMRS Examination must be familiar with the information in the "Policies" section found on the ABOG webpage.**
- 7. The Senior FPMRS examination will be given for the last time on June 26, 2015. After that date the only route to certification will be through the process described in the FPMRS Bulletin for physicians who have completed a fellowship after July 1, 2012.**

SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR SENIOR CANDIDATES

A “Senior Candidate” is a physician who is applying for the written certification examination in FPMRS on the basis of experience and clinical practice.

Candidates who completed fellowship training by June 30, 2012 are considered to be Senior Candidates, but must meet the requirements listed in that section of this Bulletin.

Candidates who entered a gynecology-sponsored 3-year fellowship in FPMRS approved by ABOG/ACGME on July 1, 2010 and thereafter are not eligible to apply as senior candidates and must fulfill all of the requirements listed in the FPMRS Bulletin.

Certification for senior candidates only requires passing a written certifying examination.

All ABOG-sponsored senior candidates must have passed both the basic written and oral ABOG certifying examinations. They must be current, active ABOG Diplomates at the time of application for the FPMRS certifying examination as a senior candidate, and must remain so at the time of the written examination.

The final senior written certifying exam will be given in June, 2015.

The eligibility of senior candidates to become ABOG-FPMRS-certified expires after the June 2015 examination. No application will be accepted for certification based on “senior” status after that date, regardless of experience or training unless they fulfill all of the requirements listed in the FPMRS Bulletin for Fellowship Graduates.

Fellows who have completed ABU primarily-sponsored 2-year FPMRS fellowships and are applying as Urology Senior Candidates should contact the ABU for further Information for applying for the ABU-sponsored FPMRS examinations.

Table of Contents

Important Information for Candidates	2
Specific Information for Senior Candidates	3
Table of Contents	4
The Division of FPMRS	5
The Written Examination	5
Application Process	5
Candidate Requirements	6
Re-Application	8
Content of the 2015 Examination	8
Conduct of the Written Examination	8
Test Security	9
Date, Deadlines and Fees	10
Case Logs	11
Length of Certification	11
Oral Examination	11
Appendix: Case log form	12

The Division of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

The process of certification in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS) for senior candidates (grandfathers/grandmothers) by the ABOG is voluntary. ABOG will not contact potential candidates. Each potential candidate for subspecialty certification is responsible for completing the application on-line at www.abog.org, for submitting all materials to ABOG at the time they are requested, and meeting all deadlines. ABOG will make the final decision concerning the senior applicant's eligibility for admission to the examination.

Written Examination

Application Process for the June 26, 2015 Examination

1. Applications will only be accepted on-line at www.abog.org beginning September 1, 2014. Late fees will apply for applications received after 5 pm CST, October 18, 2014.
2. The final day applications will be accepted for the 2015 examination is December 18, 2014.
3. The application fee must be paid by credit card through the ABOG website at the time of application. If an applicant is found to be ineligible to sit for the test, a portion of the fee may be refunded.
4. The applicant must supply ABOG with a current, working email address as part of the application process. It is the candidate's responsibility to notify ABOG of any change in this address.
5. Senior candidates who have completed a FPMRS fellowship by June 30, 2012 and have not practiced for 5 years must have a fellowship affidavit form signed by either the current Fellowship Program Director or the Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and faxed to the ABOG office. This form serves to document satisfactory completion of the training. A form, if required, will be available for printing during the application process.
6. Following submission of the on-line application, payment of the appropriate fee, and receipt at ABOG of the six-month case log (see below), the candidate's application will be considered in accordance with the requirements in effect for that year. The candidate will be notified of admissibility to the written certifying examination as a senior candidate. The final decision as to the eligibility of an

applicant as a “Senior Candidate” will be made by an ABOG subcommittee after the review of the candidate’s application and qualifications.

7. Two business days (not less than 48 hours) after the candidate has received the email notification of acceptance as a senior candidate, the candidate should contact Pearson VUE to obtain a seat for the examination. Instructions for contacting Pearson VUE will be included in the acceptance email. Seats at Pearson VUE in individual cities are limited, and are assigned on a “first come, first served” basis. ABOG will not refund any portion of the application fee based on a candidate’s inability to secure a seat at the nearest Pearson VUE test center.

Candidate Requirements

Each of the following is a requirement for a senior candidate to sit for the FPMRS Senior subspecialty examination. The Fellow must meet all of the requirements in effect during the year for which admission to the written examination is requested.

1. ***Training and Practice Requirement.*** In order to qualify as a FPMRS Senior Candidate, a physician must meet one of the following 2 criteria, as well as each of the additional criteria, numbers 2-10, listed below
 - a. **The physician must have been practicing FPMRS for a minimum of 5 years post-training.** During the most recent 5 years, a minimum of 50% of the physician’s total outpatient and inpatient practice must consist of patients with a problem related to the area of FPMRS. **OR**
 - b. **Completion of a FPMRS fellowship by June 30, 2012, but not practicing for a minimum of 5 years.** These physicians must submit an affidavit signed by the fellowship Program Director that attests to their successful completion of the training program.
2. ***Basic ABOG Board Certification.*** The candidate must hold current, active Basic ABOG certification to be eligible to apply and to sit for the FPMRS examination. The candidate must not be under investigation by the ABOG.
3. ***Maintenance of Certification (MOC).*** All senior candidates who are required to be enrolled in MOC as part of their basic certification (i.e., those with time-limited certification) must have met all of their MOC requirements at the time the FPMRS written application is submitted, and at the time of the examination.

[Note: Senior candidates with non-time-limited certification in Basic Obstetrics and Gynecology who pass the written certifying examination in FPMRS will be issued a time-limited certificate in FPMRS and will be

required to fulfill all of the yearly MOC requirements for that subspecialty to maintain their certification status.]

4. **Medical License.** Senior Candidates must have an unrestricted license to practice medicine in all of the states or territories of the United States or Canada in which the candidate holds a medical license. Each license must not be on probation or have been revoked.
5. **Moral and Ethical behavior.** Senior Candidates must have demonstrated good moral and ethical behavior in the practice of medicine and interaction with peers and other medical personnel. A felony conviction will be considered evidence of failure to meet this standard.
6. **Unrestricted Hospital Privileges.** Senior Candidates must have unrestricted hospital (or surgical center) privileges to practice the subspecialty of FPMRS. If the candidate is under investigation or on probation, the application will not be approved. The candidate must re-apply and pay a new application fee after the probation and/or restrictions have been resolved. However, resolution of these matters does not guarantee that the candidate's application will be approved.
7. **FPMRS Practice Focus.** A minimum of 50% of the physician's practice (including inpatient and outpatient) must be limited to patients with FPMRS diagnoses.
8. **Six Month Case Log.** All senior candidates—including those who have not practiced independently for a minimum of 5 years—will be required to submit a 6-month case log documenting a practice that demonstrates sufficient depth and breadth of practice in the subspecialty of FPMRS. The case log must be completed at the time of application on the form(s) provided with the online applications. (See section on "case logs").
9. **Practice Outside of the Country.** If the candidate practices in a country other than the United States or Canada, a letter from the senior responsible medical officer at each facility where the candidate practices verifying that the candidate has unrestricted privileges in FPMRS must be submitted to ABOG.
10. **Falsification of Information.** Falsification of any information or failure to disclose any adverse action will result in denial of the candidate's eligibility to sit for the written certifying examination in FPMRS as a senior candidate.

Physicians who have made major contributions to the field of FPMRS but are no longer in fulltime practice and cannot submit an adequate case log may request special consideration of the Division of FPMRS. Such physicians should write a detailed letter of request to the Executive Director of ABOG. The letter must include a summary of their contributions to the field and a copy of their CV. If the request is

granted, that physician will be allowed to sit for the FPMRS written examination. However, once certified, they must enroll in the FPMRS MOC process.

Physicians who finish an ABOG-sponsored FPMRS fellowship after June, 2012 must pass both a written and an oral certification examination.

Physicians who finish training in a non-ABOG/ACGME-sponsored fellowship after June 30, 2012 will not be eligible for certification in FPMRS by the ABOG.

Re-Application

The last Senior FPMRS examination will be given in June, 2015. After that candidates must meet the requirements listed in the FPMRS Bulletin to be eligible to apply.

Applicants Ruled Not Admissible

If a decision is made by ABOG that a senior candidate has not met the requirements for admission to the written certifying examination in FPMRS, the candidate may appeal the decision in writing to the ABOG Executive Director. Such appeals will be forwarded to the appropriate ABOG Committee for consideration. If the appeal is successful, no late fees will apply. If a successful decision occurs after the date of the written examination, the candidate will be scheduled for the next available written examination in the subspecialty, and no additional application fee will apply.

Content of the June 26, 2015 Written Examination

The content of the written examination will include advanced knowledge in the subjects outlined in the *Guide to Learning in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery* which can be found on the ABOG website. The questions will be in a multiple-choice, one best answer format.

Conduct of the Written Examination

The written examination is scheduled to last approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes. Candidates who finish before the full time has elapsed may leave early, but if they do so, may not return. Candidates will receive information after registering on the Pearson VUE website concerning the location of their examination, as well as the time they must arrive.

Each candidate must present 2 forms of identification to be admitted to the examination. One document must include both a photograph of the candidate and the candidate's signature. The second document must include the candidate's

signature. If a candidate has had a name change between application and the day of the test, they must bring a copy of an official document that verifies the name change. Examples could include, but are not limited to a marriage certificate, divorce decree, court ordered name change, etc.

Candidates may not take any electronic devices into the examination area, and must also submit to a screening process that may include any or all of the following: fingerprinting, palm vein scanning, wand or walkthrough scanning for metallic objects, or any other screening that may be in place at the Pearson VUE center. A candidate who refuses to submit to any screening procedure will not be allowed to sit for the examination, and no portion of the fee will be refunded.

Candidates are not allowed to access recording devices, cellular phones, paging devices, other electronic communication and/or recording devices, notes or writing instruments during the written examination. If such a device or notes are discovered at any time during the examination, or if the candidate accesses any such device or notes for any reason, the candidate will not receive a grade for any portion of the examination, and all fees will be forfeit.

There is no scheduled break during the examination. Candidates may take unscheduled breaks to use the restroom facilities. Unscheduled breaks should not exceed 10 minutes in length. During such breaks, a candidate may not talk with any other individual or access any electronic device or notes. Candidates are not allowed to leave the testing center for any reason before completing the test. If a candidate violates any of these regulations, the candidate will not receive a grade for any portion of the examination, and all fees will be forfeit.

Test Security

At the time of application for the Basic Written Examination, and again at the time the test is taken, each candidate will be required to agree to the following. No candidate will be allowed to sit for the written examination unless they agree to these terms:

1. I understand that all ABOG test materials are copyrighted, and that it is illegal to disclose the content of the examination in whole or in part to any individual, organization or business. Furthermore, I understand that if I provide the information to any such entity I may be prosecuted under the US Copyright laws.
2. I understand that if I divulge the content of the oral examination in whole or in part to any individual, organization or business, my test result, if any, will be negated and I will not be allowed to re-apply for the examination for a minimum of three years. Furthermore, if I had been awarded Diplomate status, such status will be withdrawn.

3. I understand that I may not record any portion of the written examination by any means in whole or in part, and a violation will be treated as outlined in numbers 1 and 2 above.

4. I understand that I may not memorize or attempt to memorize any portion of the written examination for the purpose of transmitting such material to any individual, organization or business.

Additional information about test security can be found in the Policies section of the ABOG website.

Dates, Deadlines and Fees

Application for the June 26, 2015 Examination

Applications available on-line	September 1, 2014
Late fees apply after	October 18, 2014
Last date applications accepted	December 18, 2014
Test given at national centers	June 26, 2015

Fees*

Sept 1, to Oct 18, 2014	\$1845
Oct 19, to Nov 18, 2014	\$1845 + \$320 late fee = \$2165
Nov 19 to Dec 18, 2014	\$1845 + \$815 late fee = \$2660

** If the candidate is ruled inadmissible, a maximum of \$870 will be refunded.*

The final deadline to complete the on-line application (including submission of the case-log form) and pay the applicable fees is 5 pm CST, December 18, 2014. No application will be accepted after this date.

If the candidate must drop out of the examination due to health, certain types of military mobilizations, natural disasters or other serious reasons and the Board is notified before March 20, 2015, a portion of the examination portion of the fee may be refunded.

Case Logs

1. A Case Log form must be completed as part of the application process. The form must be completed and submitted on line. An example of the proposed form is shown in Appendix B.
2. The deadline for submission of all application materials, including the case log is December 18, 2014.
3. The numbers reported in the case log may be from any consecutive 6 month period between January 1, 2013 and December 18, 2014.
4. All outpatient consults should be listed on the case log form.

Length of Certification

All certificates issued by ABOG after 2008 are time-limited. Certification for a candidate who successfully passes the 2015 FPMRS Senior examination will expire on December 31, 2016 unless all of the 2015 FPMRS MOC assignments have been completed successfully and on time.

If certification is allowed to lapse, it can be reactivated only by passing a secure re-entry examination.

Oral Examination

There is no oral examination requirement for senior candidates.

Appendix

Case Log Form

Candidates for the FPMRS Senior Examination must submit a case list. The list must document that a minimum of 50% of the physician's practice has been limited to FPMRS during a 6 month period of time. A draft example of the case list follows. The actual case list may differ from this example. Candidates should use the case list provided on-line at the time of application. Candidates will be asked to submit the case list at the time of application.

Six month case list for Senior Candidates FPMRS

[SAMPLE: DO NOT use the list below. The actual case list will open at the time of application and may contain different categories and/or minimum numbers of cases from those shown in this appendix.]

Please complete the following form listing all of the patients you have treated during the 6 month period of time you indicate below.

Name: _____ ABOG ID#: _____

Beginning Date: _____

End Date: _____

A. Outpatient Visits – New/Consult Patients only

Enter the total number of new pts. seen by you in your practice during the six month period shown above.

All new GYN PTS.	
All new OB PTS.	
Dx. Prolapse	
<u>Dx.</u> Urinary Incontinence	
Dx. Overactive Bladder	
Dx. Urinary Retention	
Dx. Painful bladder syndrome	
Dx. Fecal Incontinence	

B. Diagnostic Procedures / Office Management

(Include both inpatients and outpatients.)

Simple Urodynamics	
Complex Urodynamics	
Cystourethroscopy	
Fitting pessary/incontinence ring	

C. Surgical Procedures for Incontinence

Sling procedures	
Periurethral injections	
Laparoscopic procedures	
Sacral Nerve stimulators	
Removal or modification of sling	

Name: _____

ABOG ID#: _____

D. Surgical Procedures for Prolapse

(The same pt. may be listed in more than one category)

Abdominal Procedure –apical prolapse	
Laparoscopic with/or without robotic assistance – apical prolapse	
Vaginal Procedure – apical prolapse	
Vaginal Procedure – anterior wall prolapse	
Vaginal Procedure – posterior wall prolapse	
Insertion of Vaginal Mesh	
Removal of Vaginal Mesh	

E. Surgical Procedures on Urinary System/Bowel System

Vesicovaginal fistula repair	
Urethrovaginal fistula repair	
Urethral diverticulum	
Ureteroneocystotomy	
Ureteral stent placement	
Repair of Chronic third degree laceration	
Rectovaginal fistula repair	

F. Surgical Procedures on the Genital System

Abdominal hysterectomy	
Vaginal hysterectomy	
Laparoscopic with/without robotic assistance hysterectomy	
Construction of neo-vagina with or without vascular flaps	