

**2018 Bulletin**  
for  
**Added Qualification**  
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, updated in February of 2018, represents  
the official statement of the 2017-2018 requirements  
for receiving an added qualification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine**

## Important Information for all Candidates

1. The Practice Pathway for added qualification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) is no longer accepted. Candidates for added qualification 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 examination. Diplomates of ABOG apply for HPM added qualification 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.
7. It is the responsibility of each candidate to be aware of the current requirements for added qualification.
8. Added qualification is time-limited. As such, all candidates who pass the Hospice and Palliative Medicine exam must enter the maintenance of certification process in 2019.
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 ([ABIM.org](http://ABIM.org)).

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# Hospice and Palliative Medicine

The Hospice and Palliative Medicine Certification Program has been developed by the American Board of Internal (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 Board at the same time in the same testing centers. The American Board of Internal Medicine is responsible for administering the examination.

## November 20, 2018 Written Examination

### Application Process

1. Applications will be accepted online at [www.abog.org](http://www.abog.org) beginning March 1, 2018. The final day applications will be accepted is May 25, 2018.
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. The 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. The 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 online 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.
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.
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 even if unrelated to the practice of medicine, will be considered a 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. The examination takes approximately ten (10) hours and is divided up into multiple sections with no more than sixty (60) questions per section. For more specific information please see the description on the ABIM website at (<http://www.abim.org/certification/exam-information/hospice-palliative-medicine/exam-content.aspx>).

Questions pose tasks such as the following:

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

## **Scheduling an Examination**

If your application is accepted, your name will be forwarded to the 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, 2018 to May 25, 2018**

**\$2500**

The final deadline to complete the online application and pay the applicable fees is May 25, 2018. 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, 2018, 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.

## **Maintenance of Certification**

To be eligible for renewal of ABOG added qualification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Diplomates must hold a valid underlying certificate in obstetrics and gynecology.

A Diplomate who holds a non-time-limited certificate in obstetrics and gynecology must enter the MOC program in the year their HPM certificate expires in order to maintain their HPM certificate.

A Diplomate who holds a time-limited certificate in obstetrics and gynecology must continue to participate in Maintenance of Certification in order to maintain their Hospice and Palliative Medicine certificate.

## Candidate Disability

ABOG shall not exclude any candidate from an 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 the 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. The candidate 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 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.

## Lactation

Candidates who are lactating may request a 30-minute break and extension of their examination if they notify the ABOG office no later than **90 days** prior to the test, and schedule at a Pearson VUE test center by the same date. After 90 days ABOG cannot guarantee that it will be possible to schedule an extended test. Most Pearson VUE test centers have only one room that is available for breast pumping, so candidates are encouraged to make their reservations as soon as they receive approval for the test as these rooms will be assigned on a "first come, first served" basis.