

2020 Bulletin
for
Added Qualification
in
Hospice and Palliative Medicine
The American Board of
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Inc.



**This Bulletin, updated in February of 2020, represents
the official statement of the 2020-2021 requirements
for receiving an added qualification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine**

Important Information for all Candidates

1. 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 Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) examination. Diplomates of ABOG apply for HPM added qualification through the ABOG website.
3. Candidates must call the ABOG Examination Department 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) 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 2021.
9. Candidates should be familiar with the material under the "Policies" section under the "About ABOG" tab on the ABOG website.
10. Additional information about the examination can be found on the ABIM website (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 Boards at the same time in the same testing centers. The American Board of Internal Medicine is responsible for administering the examination.

October 19, 2020 Written Examination

Application Process

1. Applications will be accepted online at www.abog.org beginning March 2, 2020. The final day applications will be accepted is May 29, 2020.
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 emailed to the ABOG office. The form serves to document satisfactory completion or near completion of the fellowship training. Email the form to exams@abog.org.
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 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 emailed to the ABOG office. The form is available to print 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 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:

Prognostication and Natural History of Serious and Complex Illness	10%
Comprehensive Whole-Patient Assessment	20%
Managing Suffering and Distress	40%
Palliative Care Emergencies and Refractory Symptoms	5%
Management of Medical Interventions	6%
Impending Death and the Death Event	3%
Communication Skills	2%
Grief, Loss, and Bereavement	3%
Interdisciplinary Teamwork, Quality, and Professionalism	2%
Quality and Compliance	2%
Ethical and Legal Aspects of Care	7%

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 (<https://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 2, 2020 to May 29, 2020

\$2500

The final deadline to complete the online application and pay the applicable fees is May 29, 2020. 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, 2020, 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.

Results of the Examination

The results of the examination will be reported online to each diplomate within 3 months of the date of the exam.

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

Candidates who wish to request a testing accommodation will need to submit their request to The American Board of Internal Medicine at accommodations@abim.org. For more information on how to submit an accommodation request, please go to the ABIM website at <https://www.abim.org/certification/exam-information/testing-accommodations-disabilities.aspx>.

Lactation

Candidates who are lactating may request 60 minutes of break time added to the standard pool of scheduled break time for this examination. Requests must be made in writing to The American Board of Internal Medicine at accommodations@abim.org. Information regarding the pregnant and nursing mother accommodations can be found at <https://www.abim.org/certification/exam-information/test-accommodations-nursing-mothers.aspx>.

In order to maximize the potential that a nursing mother will have access to private space in order to express breast milk during an ABIM exam, **ABIM must receive a request for such space at least 90 days prior to the physician's exam date**. Space is provided on a first come, first served basis and is subject to availability. This could require a candidate to travel to a center that has private space available.