

2019 Bulletin
for
Focused Practice Designation
in
Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
The American Board of
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Inc.

ABO+G

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This Bulletin, issued in Fall, 2018, represents the official statement of the 2019 requirements for Focused Practice Designation for gynecologists in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (PAG). Applications to participate in the designation process can be found at www.abog.org.

Important Information for all Candidates

1. The process for Focused Practice Designation in PAG by the ABOG is voluntary. ABOG will not contact potential candidates. Each potential candidate for Focused Practice Designation in PAG 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 applicant's eligibility for admission to the examination.
2. It is the responsibility of each candidate to be aware of the current requirements for Focused Practice Designation in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (PAG). 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 Focused Practice Designation in PAG Bulletin for the year in which they are to take an examination.
3. Focused Practice Designation in PAG is time-limited. Each Diplomate who achieves a focused practice designation in PAG must enter the PAG Focused Practice Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program in the year following successful attainment of focused practice designation and must successfully complete all assignments to maintain focused practice designation. Physicians who hold non-time- limited certificates in Specialty Obstetrics and Gynecology must enter the PAG MOC process to maintain Focused Practice Designation.
4. Fees must be paid by credit card through the ABOG website (www.abog.org).
5. Fees are payable in US Dollars.
6. 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.

Specific Information for all Candidates for Focused Practice Designation in PAG

- Applicants for the Focused Practice Designation in PAG must have primary certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology from the ABOG and must be meeting the ABOG MOC program requirements if they hold a time-limited certificate.
- A candidate is a physician who is applying for the computer-based examination for focused practice based on training, experience and clinical practice.
- Candidates must have completed a minimum of three years of clinical practice with a focus in PAG. Completion of a one or two-year PAG fellowship may count towards the minimum three-year requirement of focused practice.
- Candidates must have completed a minimum of 20 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* in PAG or relevant pediatric surgery CME in the last 3 years.
- Candidates must submit a 12-month case log documenting a minimum of 100 gynecological patients under the age of 21, as well as an adequate breadth of practice minimums (see Appendix A).
- Candidates must also document on the 12-month case log that they provide care for patients under the age of 12 for gynecological care.
- Candidates must document on the 12-month case log the number of surgical cases performed on patients under the age of 21.
- Candidates must pass a secure, computer-based examination of focused knowledge, judgment, and skills in PAG.

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Written Examination

Application Process for the June 21, 2019 Examination

1. Applications will be accepted online at www.abog.org beginning September 17, 2018.
2. The final day applications will be accepted for the 2019 examination is May 31, 2019.
3. The fee must be paid by credit card through the ABOG website (www.abog.org) at the time of application. If an applicant is found to be ineligible to sit for the test, a portion of the fee will be refunded.
4. The applicant must supply ABOG with a 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. Following submission of the on-line application, payment of the appropriate fee, and receipt at ABOG of the 12-month case log, 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 computer-based examination. An ABOG subcommittee will make the final decision as to the eligibility of an applicant after the review of the candidate's application and qualifications.
6. Two business days (not less than 48 hours) after the candidate has received the email notification of acceptance as a 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.

Candidate Requirements

Each of the following is a requirement for a candidate to sit for the PAG Focused Practice Designation examination. The candidate must meet all the requirements in effect during the year for which admission to the computer-based examination is requested.

1. **Training and Practice Requirement.** To qualify as a Focused Practice Designation in PAG, candidates must have completed a minimum of three years of clinical practice with a focus in PAG. Completion of a one or two-year PAG fellowship may count towards the minimum three-year requirement of focused practice (each year of fellowship counts as one year of clinical practice up to two years).
2. **PAG CME Requirement.** Candidates must have completed a minimum of 20 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* in PAG or relevant pediatric surgery CME in the last 3 years.

3. **Specialty ABOG Board Certification.** The candidate must hold current, active ABOG certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology to be eligible to apply and to sit for the PAG examination. In other words, the physician must be certified through December 31, 2019.
4. **Maintenance of Certification (MOC).** All candidates with a time-limited certificate in Specialty Obstetrics and Gynecology must be meeting the ABOG MOC program requirements at the time the PAG Focused Practice written application is submitted, and at the time of the actual written examination. Each Diplomate who achieves a Focused Practice Designation in PAG must enter the PAG Focused Practice Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program in the year following successful attainment of Focused Practice Designation in PAG and must successfully complete all assignments to maintain a Focused Practice Designation in PAG.

[Note: Candidates with non-time-limited certification in Specialty Obstetrics and Gynecology who pass the written examination for Focused Practice in PAG will be issued a time-limited Focused Practice Designation in PAG and will be required to enter the PAG Focused Practice MOC program and fulfill all the yearly MOC requirements for Focused Practice Designation in PAG.]

5. **Medical License.** Candidates must have an active, full, and unrestricted license to practice medicine in any and all of the states or territories (United States or a Province of Canada) in which the candidate holds a current medical license. Each license must not be on restricted, suspended, on probation, revoked, nor include conditions on practice.
6. **Moral and Ethical Behavior.** The ABOG requires evidence of a candidate's professionalism and professional standing. This will include verification of their professional reputation, moral and ethical character, and in-hospital practice privileges from administrative officials of organizations and institutions that know the candidate and their practice. 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, even if unrelated to the practice of medicine, will be considered evidence of failure to meet this standard.
7. **Unrestricted Hospital Privileges.** Candidates must have unrestricted hospital (or surgical center) privileges for a Focused Practice Designation in PAG. 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.
8. **Twelve-Month Case Log.** All candidates will be required to submit a 12-month case log documenting a practice that demonstrates sufficient depth and breadth of focused practice in PAG. The case log must document that the provider is caring for patients under the age of 12 and show evidence of focused practice by having a minimum of 100 gynecologic office practice cases in patients less than 21 years of age within a 12-month interval. The case log

must be completed at the time of application on the form(s) provided with the online applications (see Appendix A).

9. ***Surgical Procedures.*** All candidates will be required to submit the number of operative procedures that they performed on patients less than 21 years of age in the year used for case collection (see Appendix A).
10. ***Physicians in International Practice Settings.*** If the candidate practices in a country other than the United States and its territories or Canada, a letter from the senior responsible medical officer in the hospital or clinical setting where the candidate practices must be submitted with the application. The letter must be submitted to ABOG and must attest that they have independent, unsupervised privileges in PAG. In addition, it should attest that the Diplomate's practice of medicine meets all the local standards and verifies that the candidate has unrestricted privileges in PAG.
11. ***Falsification of Information.*** Falsification of any information or failure to disclose any adverse action on hospital privileges, medical license or MOC application will result in a denial of a candidate's eligibility to sit for the written examination for Focused Practice Designation in PAG.

Physicians who have made major contributions to the field of PAG but are no longer in full-time practice and cannot submit an adequate case log may request special consideration from the Committee on Focused Practice in PAG. Such physicians should write a detailed letter of request to the Associate Executive Director for MOC 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 PAG computer-based examination. However, once Focused Practice Designation in PAG is attained, they must enroll in the PAG MOC process.

Re-Application

A candidate who postpones or fails the written examination in PAG must complete a new on-line application to be considered for the next scheduled written examination in PAG and pay a new application fee.

Applicants Ruled Not Admissible

If a decision is made by ABOG that a candidate has not met the requirements for admission to the written examination in PAG, the candidate may appeal the decision in writing to the ABOG Associate Executive Director for MOC. Such appeals will be forwarded to the appropriate ABOG Review Committee for consideration. If a successful decision occurs after the date of the computer-based examination, the candidate will be scheduled for the next available computer-based examination in PAG, and no additional application fee will apply.

Content of the June 21, 2019 Written Examination

Examination content was determined by a blueprint (see below) developed by the Committee on Focused Practice Designation in PAG. The questions will be in a multiple-choice, one best answer format.

Blueprint for 2019 PAG Written Examination

Prepubertal gynecology 20%

Medical conditions 18%

Vulvovaginal disease

Congenital and developmental abnormalities

Ovarian cysts/adnexal masses

Urethral prolapse

Normal and abnormal growth and development

Psychosocial problems

Surgical conditions 2%

Labial agglutination

Genital trauma

Adolescent gynecology 80%

Medical conditions 60%

Endocrine disorders

Infectious disorders

Oncofertility

Disorders of sexual development

Transgender health

Psychosocial problems

Growth and development

Disabilities

Menstrual management

Contraception

Chronic pain

Surgical conditions 20%

Pelvic masses

Congenital anomalies

Trauma

Torsion

Conduct of the Written Examination

The PAG Focused Practice Written Examination is scheduled to last approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes and consists of 100 questions. Candidates who finish before the full time has elapsed may leave the Pearson VUE Testing Center early, but if they do so, may not return. Candidates will receive information after registering on the Pearson VUE Testing Center website concerning the location of their examination, as well as the time they must arrive (<https://home.pearsonvue.com/>.)

Each candidate must present two (2) forms of identification to be admitted for the PAG Examination at Pearson VUE Testing Center. 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 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 Testing Center. A candidate who refuses to submit to any screening procedure will not be allowed to take the examination, and no portion of the fee will be refunded.

Candidates are not allowed to possess or access recording devices, cellular phones, paging devices, other electronic communication and/or recording devices, and writing instruments at any time during the written examination or while taking a break. Candidates may not wear any device that can access the internet. These devices include iWatch and similar devices. If such a device is discovered at any time during the examination, or if the candidate accesses any such device for any reason, the candidate will not receive a grade for any portion of the written examination, and all fees will be forfeited. The one exception is an insulin pump.

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 individual or access any electronic device. Candidates are not allowed to leave the Pearson VUE 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 PAG written examination, and all fees will be forfeited.

Special Accommodations

If special accommodations are required by a candidate, requests must be received at the ABOG office no later than March 22, 2019. It may not be possible to accommodate requests

received after that date. (See Appendix B for information on candidates with a disability. See Appendix C for information on candidates who are lactating.)

Dates, Deadlines and Fees

Application for the June 21, 2019 Examination

Applications available on-line	September 17, 2018
Last date applications accepted	May 31, 2019
Test given at national centers	June 21, 2019

Fees*

September 17, 2018 to May 31, 2019 \$175

The final deadline to complete the on-line application (including submission of the case-log form) and pay the applicable fees is May 31, 2019. 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 June 15, 2019, a portion of the fee may be refunded.

Case Logs

1. A Case Log form must be completed as a part of the application process. The form must be completed and submitted on line. An example of the form is shown in Appendix A.
2. The deadline for submission of all application materials, including the case log is May 31, 2019.
3. The numbers reported in the case log must be from any consecutive 12-month period between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018.

Length of Designation

All Specialty and Subspecialty Certificates issued by ABOG after 1986 are time-limited. Similarly, Focused Practice Designation in PAG issued by ABOG for candidates who successfully pass the PAG written examination are time-limited and remains only in effect if the Diplomate participates in and successfully completes the PAG Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process each year. Thus, the Focused Practice Designation in PAG for candidates who

successfully pass the 2019 computer-based PAG examination will expire on December 31, 2020 unless all of the 2020 PAG MOC assignments have been completed successfully and on time. If a Diplomate's Focused Practice Designation in PAG is allowed to lapse, it can only be re-established by passing a secure re-entry computer-based examination in PAG.

Oral Examination

There is no oral examination requirement for Focused Practice Designation in PAG. Candidates are only required to take and pass the PAG computer-based examination.

Maintenance of Certification

To be eligible for renewal of the Focused Practice Designation in PAG, Diplomates must hold a valid primary certificate in Obstetrics and Gynecology and complete the ABOG MOC program on an annual basis.

Diplomates who hold a time-limited certificate must meet MOC requirements annually for their specialty or subspecialty as well as complete additional reading assignments focused in PAG.

The Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment requirement for specialists holding a PAG Focused Practice Designation has three parts:

- a. articles in general obstetrics, gynecology, office practice, and four subspecialties;
- b. articles in pediatric and adolescent gynecology; and
- c. articles in patient safety and communication.

The Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment requirement for subspecialists holding a PAG Focused Practice Designation has four parts:

- a. articles in general obstetrics, gynecology, office practice, and the other three subspecialties;
- b. articles in pediatric and adolescent gynecology;
- c. articles in the Diplomate's subspecialty; and
- d. articles in patient safety and communication.

Likewise, a Diplomate who holds a non-time-limited certificate in obstetrics and gynecology or an ABOG subspecialty must participate in the MOC program annually in order to maintain their Focused Practice Designation in PAG.

The Committee on Focused Practice in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology

The members of the Committee on Focused Practice in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology are listed in Appendix D.

Appendices

Appendix A

Candidates Twelve Month Case Log for Focused Practice Designation in Pediatric Adolescent Gynecology

Candidates for the Focused Practice Designation in PAG must submit a case log. The log must document that a minimum of 100 outpatient cases of patients less than 21 years of age and include patients under 12 years of age in the 12-month collection period. Candidates must also document on the case log the surgeries they have performed on patients under 21 years of age. Although there is no minimum number of surgeries required; case logs without any surgical experience will be reviewed by the ABOG Committee on Focused Practice in PAG for application approval. A draft example of the case log follows. Candidates will be asked to submit the case log at the time of application.

A. Outpatient Office Procedures

Quantify office procedures/patient encounters without procedures in patients less than 21 years of age.

Type of Procedure	Number of Cases	
	Age less than 12	Age 12 to 20
Colposcopy		
Insertion of contraceptive implants		
Insertion of IUDs		
Lysis of adhesions		
Removal of hymenal band		
Vaginal irrigation		
Vulvar biopsy		
Other/Patient encounters w/o procedure		
Subtotal		
Total (must be at least 100)		

B. Surgical Procedures

Number of procedures on patients under the age of 21.

Type of Procedure	Number of Procedures
Laparoscopy	
Laparotomy	
External genital tract procedures	
Other	

Appendix B: Candidate Disability

The American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Inc. (ABOG or Board) provides reasonable accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2013 (ADAAA) (collectively the ADA) and, therefore, will provide or allow the use of necessary auxiliary aids, services or testing conditions that do not fundamentally alter the measurement of the skills or knowledge the Board assessment program and examination is intended to test. Candidates must indicate through the examination application if special testing accommodations under the ADA are needed. Accommodations will only be considered with appropriate documentation. In order to implement this policy, notification of the need for special testing circumstances must be submitted in writing to the ABOG by a candidate at least 90 days prior to the examination date. This deadline is necessary to allow the Board to request the required documentation, to review the records and to verify the disability, if necessary.

The ADA defines a person with a disability as someone with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as walking, standing, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating or working. The purpose of accommodations is to provide equal access to ABOG examinations for all individuals. Accommodations offset the identified functional limitation so that the impact of impairment is minimized by means of an auxiliary aid or an adjustment to the testing procedure. Functional limitation refers to the aspects of a disability that interfere with an individual's ability to function in some capacity on a regular and continuing basis.

The purpose of documentation is to validate that an applicant for test accommodations is a disabled individual as defined by the ADA and to provide guidance in determining effective accommodations. Comprehensive information by a qualified professional is necessary to allow the ABOG to understand the nature and extent of the applicant's disability and the resulting functional impairment that limits access to its examinations. It is essential that an applicant's documentation provide a clear explanation of the functional impairment and a rationale for the requested accommodation.

No candidate shall be offered an accommodation that would compromise the ABOG's examination's ability to test accurately the skills and knowledge it purports to measure, and no auxiliary aid or service will be provided which will fundamentally alter the examination or will result in an undue burden to ABOG.

ABOG shall not exclude any candidate from the PAG Focused Practice Designation 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 determined to be necessary to overcome or compensate for the disability. In addition, the candidate must supply any additional information the ABOG may subsequently request in a timely manner.

If any of the requirements cannot reasonably be provided, ABOG will notify the candidate and will indicate those alternative accommodations which the ABOG determines to be 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.

Appendix C: 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. If requests are received less than 90 days before the examination, 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.

Appendix D: ABOG Committee on Focused Practice in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology

Paige Hertweck, M.D.*	University of Louisville School of Medicine
Elisabeth Quint, M.D.	University of Michigan Medical School
Geri Hewitt, M.D.	The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
Joseph Sanfilippo, M.D.	Magee-Women's Hospital of UPMC
Julie Strickland, M.D.	University of Missouri at Kansas City
Staci Pollack, M.D.	Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Jennifer Dietrich, M.D.	Baylor College of Medicine

* Committee Chair