



April 7, 2010

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY TO CERTIFICATION

COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAY

The American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) is pleased to announce the approval of a new educational pathway leading to board certification. This pathway, called the **Complementary Pathway**, was approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties at its March meeting and marks the end of a process conducted over the past 18 months to seek approval for this new pathway. The Complementary Pathway is designed to accommodate physicians who wish to make a mid-career shift into the practice of Preventive Medicine and to achieve certification by the ABPM in one of its three specialty areas – Aerospace Medicine, Occupational Medicine, or Public Health and General Preventive Medicine.

With input from the specialty societies of preventive medicine, and from practitioners in the field and residency program directors, the ABPM designed an educational pathway that acknowledges the value of previous clinical training and practice experience and adds focused training requirements to enable the mid-career physician to achieve certification in the specialty area of their choice without completing a full residency training program through the traditional pathway. The comparison of the Complementary Pathway to the Traditional Residency Pathway is shown in the table on the next page.

Rather than two years of residency training, the Complementary Pathway only requires one year of formal residency training in a specialty area of Preventive Medicine.

In summary, the differences are:

1. One year of formal residency training in a specialty area of Preventive Medicine.
2. The requirement for the full masters degree (e.g. MPH degree) is replaced by the combination of:
 - post-graduate courses in five core areas – 1) biostatistics, 2) epidemiology, 3) environmental / occupational health, 4) health services management and administration, and 5) behavioral health science

AND

 - two years of prior ACGME-accredited training in another ABMS recognized specialty.
3. Two years of full-time practice in the Preventive Medicine specialty area in which certification is being sought.

This pathway will be available for applications for the **2011** ABPM board certification exam. Applications may be submitted through the ABPM online application website beginning **March 1, 2011**.



COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAY SUMMARY

Traditional Residency Pathway	Complementary Pathway
1. Medical School: Graduation from a US or Canadian medical school, or from a medical school located outside the US or Canada that is deemed satisfactory to the Board	Same
2. Current License(s): Hold a currently valid and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States or Canada.	Same
3. Clinical Year: One year of supervised postgraduate clinical training provided as part of a graduate medical education program accredited by the ACGME, the AOA, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or the College of Family Physicians of Canada. The training must include at least six months of direct patient care comprising ambulatory and inpatient experience with hands-on patient care involving diagnostic workup and treatment of individual patients.	Same. Can be met by completion of #7 below.
4. Academic Year: Successful completion of an MPH or equivalent masters or doctoral postgraduate degree.	Successful completion of a post-graduate course in each of the following subjects: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental / occupational health, health services management and administration, and behavioral health science. Each course must be the equivalent of at least 39 contact hours (3 credits) of instruction at the graduate level.
5. Practicum Year: Successful completion of not less than one year in an ACGME-accredited residency program in the specialty area for which certification is being sought.	Same
6. Currency: The applicant must be currently practicing in the field of Preventive Medicine: full time training or practice of PM for at least one of the past three years.	Currency: The applicant must be currently practicing in the field of Preventive Medicine: full time practice of PM for at least two of the past five years.
7. Prior Clinical Training: None required.	Prior Clinical Training: Two or more years of training in an ACGME accredited clinical residency program in an ABMS specialty. This training must include at least 6 months of direct patient care in each year.