

American Board of Preventive Medicine Announces Expanded Eligibility Requirements for its Three Subspecialties

Expanded Eligibility Recognition Serves as Step Toward Single Accreditation System

Chicago, IL, November 16, 2019: The American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) has announced the formal recognition of American Osteopathic Association (AOA) board certification as an acceptable primary certification required for eligibility for certification in three ABPM subspecialties. This time-limited change aligns with the establishment of a single accreditation system in graduate medical education. The change will allow AOA board certification to serve as the primary credential to obtain certification in select subspecialties.

Beginning with the ABPM 2020 Examination Cycle, AOA board certification will be recognized as an acceptable primary certificate for physicians seeking subspecialty certification in Addiction Medicine, Clinical Informatics and Undersea Hyperbaric Medicine from ABPM. To be eligible to participate in this program and take the ABPM subspecialty certification examination, AOA board certified physicians must successfully complete an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited fellowship in the relevant subspecialty, as well as meet all other current ABPM requirements for that subspecialty.

“This expanded eligibility is not only consistent with the pending completion of the transition to a single accreditation system but, more importantly, is the product of the ABPM Board of Directors thoughtful consideration of a request it received from the AOA,” said ABPM’s Board Chair, Hernando ‘Joe’ Ortega, Jr., MD, MPH. “Our goal is to recognize and benefit those talented and well-qualified osteopathic physicians who possess AOA board certification, have successfully completed an ACGME accredited fellowship and have otherwise met the rigorous training required for ABPM subspecialty certification.”

ABPM’s Practice Pathways for Addiction Medicine and Clinical Informatics certification requirements will remain the same. In addition, osteopathic physicians who have never obtained AOA board certification or, who at one time held AOA board certification but have not maintained it at the time of application for ABPM subspecialty certification, will not be eligible to take the corresponding examination under the new eligibility criteria.

“Our establishment of this time-limited pathway for ACGME trained fellows allows AOA board certified physicians an opportunity to obtain subspecialty certification while the single system dynamics are completed, noted Dr. Ortega. “Most importantly, we are able to expand patient access to treatment in these specialties – most notably Addiction Medicine.”

This expanded eligibility will become effective as of January 1, 2020 and will continue in effect until the transition to a single accreditation system is complete. To become certified in a specialty or subspecialty of the ABPM, please see the ABPM website at www.theabpm.org or contact ABPM at abpm@theabpm.org.

Editor's Note

This announcement is an update to the original dated October 3, 2019 which referenced the announcement as being made jointly by the American Board of Preventive Medicine and the American Osteopathic Association.

About ABPM

The ABPM is a Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Founded in 1948, ABPM works with the ABMS in the development of standards for the ongoing assessment and certification of over 12,000 physicians certified by the ABPM in the Specialties of Aerospace Medicine, Occupational Medicine, and Public Health and General Preventive Medicine, and in the Subspecialties of Addiction Medicine, Clinical Informatics, Medical Toxicology and Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine.