

Introduction

- 1) The American Board of Interventional Pain Physicians (ABIPP) is a Specialty Board providing Board Certification in Interventional Pain Management and Competency Certification in Controlled Substance Management and Competency Certification in Coding, Compliance, and Practice Management.
 - ABIPP is incorporated in the state of Delaware as a not-for-profit corporation and operates as an autonomous entity, independent of any other association, society, or academy.
 - ABIPP may decide to add or eliminate Competency Certifications.
 - ABIPP may change any part or the entire examination or its requirements, based on need and requirements.

- 2) Interventional Pain Management (-09) is a discipline of medicine recognized as a specialty by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
 - The National Uniform Claims Committee (NUCC) defined interventional pain management as, “the discipline of medicine devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of pain related disorders principally with the application of interventional techniques in managing sub-acute, chronic, persistent, and intractable pain, independently or in conjunction with other modalities of treatment.”
 - MedPac defined interventional techniques as, “minimally-invasive procedures, including percutaneous precision needle placement, with placement of drugs in targeted areas or ablation of targeted nerves; and some surgical techniques, such as laser or endoscopic discectomy, intrathecal infusion pumps and spinal cord stimulators, for the diagnosis and management of chronic, persistent or intractable pain.”

- 3) The American Board of Interventional Pain Physicians offers certifications only to physicians licensed to practice medicine in the United States.
 - a) Eligibility requirements for Board Certification and Competency Certification examination are separate for each certification.
 - b) The Board of Directors of ABIPP limits all ABIPP certificates to 10 years after the candidate passes the certifying examination.

- 4) ABIPP has articles of incorporation and bylaws which describe its operation. According to the bylaws, ABIPP:
 - a) Establishes an independent and stable governing board with staggered, limited terms of not more than 4 years, appointed or selected by members.
 - b) Sets forth the requirements and policies for certification by the Board.
 - c) Promotes the public interest by contributing to the improvement of medicine by establishing requirements and evaluating applicants who apply.
 - d) Determines whether applicants have received adequate preparation in accord with the established standards.

- e) Requires evidence that applicants have acquired capability in a specialty or subspecialty area of interventional pain management and will demonstrate special knowledge in that field.
 - f) Requires comprehensive evaluation of the knowledge and experience of applicants.
 - g) Sets standards to determine that those who are certified possess the knowledge and skills essential to provide competent care in the designated specialty, subspecialty or practice of interventional pain management.
- 5) More than 80% of ABIPP revenues for continuing operations shall be from certification and examination fees and interest in investment income.
 - 6) ABIPP is a non-profit organization expected to have at least 100 members or more located in at least one-third of the states who shall possess a clear and unrestricted license to practice medicine.
 - 7) Except for competency certification examinations, ABIPP requires all applicants seeking certification to have satisfactorily completed a post-graduate training program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) that includes identifiable training in pain medicine or interventional pain management. This identifiable training shall be deemed acceptable unless determined by one or more of the licensing boards to be either:
 - a) Inadequate in scope, content, and duration in that specialty or subspecialty of medicine to protect the public health and safety, or
 - b) Not equivalent in scope and content to the residency training required for board certification by any related American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Board for the specific conditions, disease processes, and surgical procedures within the scope of the ABIPP examination and certification.
 - 8) ABIPP may establish separate training standards for applicants seeking certification other than ACGME accredited post-graduate training. In such cases, ABIPP will describe standards that include identifiable training in the specialty or subspecialty area of medicine in which the physician is seeking certification and that have been determined by the licensing boards to be equivalent in scope, content, and duration to those of an ACGME accredited program in a related specialty or subspecialty area of medicine.
 - 9) In lieu of the specialty or subspecialty training required as described above, ABIPP shall require applicants seeking certification to have completed:
 - a) A minimum of 6 years of full time teaching and/or practice in the specialty or subspecialty area of medicine involving interventional pain management and
 - b) A minimum of 300 hours of continuing medical education in the subspecialty of pain medicine and/or interventional pain management, of which 100 hours are devoted to cadaver workshops offered by ASIPP or ISIS.
 - Any teaching experience acceptable under this category shall have been in a post-graduate training program accredited by the ACGME that includes identifiable training in the specialty or subspecialty area of interventional pain management. Teaching or practice experience accepted shall be

evaluated by and acceptable to the Credentials Committee of ABIPP pursuant to standards specified in the bylaws.

10) Physicians applying for certification who qualify under section nine (9) shall be required to have satisfactorily completed an ACGME-accredited residency training program. This residency shall have provided training in the conditions and disease processes included in interventional pain management.

- a) ABIPP also requires all applicants to be certified in the primary specialty by an ABMS-approved Board.
- b) Qualifications for competency certification are different from those for board certification. For competency certification examination, ABIPP requires physicians to have completed an ACGME residency and to have an active license to practice medicine in one of the 50 states.
- c) ABIPP also offers alternate pathways for candidates possessing ABMS subspecialty certification in pain medicine awarded by the American Board of Anesthesiology, the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, or the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) Maintain highest standards of practice of interventional pain management by fostering education and training in interventional pain management, including interventional techniques, alone or in conjunction with other modalities of treatment.
- 2) Establish and maintain criteria for the designation of board certified interventional pain physicians and others receiving competency certification.
- 3) Establish and conduct those processes by which the Board may judge whether a physician who voluntarily applies should be issued a certificate indicating that the required standards for certification or re-certification in an ABIPP designated discipline of interventional pain management have been met.
- 4) Serve the public, medical profession, board of medical licensure, federation of licensure boards, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), health care facilities and organizations, and medical schools by providing the names of physicians and others certified by the Board.
- 5) Establish criteria to be approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties and each board of medical licensure in all states.
- 6) Develop the criteria to inform the Accreditation Counsel for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) concerning the training required of individuals seeking certification related to residency training programs.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

The eligibility requirements and examination materials for ABIPP certification programs have been developed based on substantial review and analysis of the current state of medical and scientific knowledge of the treatment of pain, as reflected in the medical literature. The ABIPP Board of Directors, with the assistance and advice of the professionals in relevant fields, has developed a certification program that recognizes

accepted levels of knowledge and expertise in the profession, with the goal of improved patient care

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS DIPLOMATE

- A. At the time of certification by ABIPP, each physician shall be capable of performing independently the entire scope of the practice of interventional pain management and must:
- 1) Fulfill the requirements of the continuum of education in interventional pain management as follows:
 - Completed an ACGME approved fellowship or,
 - Practiced interventional pain management for 6 years.
 - 2) Fulfill unrestricted licensure requirements to practice medicine in the United States.
 - 3) Have a professional standing satisfactory to ABIPP.
 - 4) Be a diplomate of a primary specialty approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties.
 - 5) Be certified by ABMS approved pain medicine specialty examination offered by the American Board of Anesthesiology, American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and/or the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology

AND

- Complete Competency Certification in Coding, Compliance and Practice Management and in Controlled Substance Management (not required if ABIPP Part I – Theoretical Examination is completed.)

OR

- 6) Complete ABIPP Part I – Theoretical Examination **AND** Part II – Practical Examination.
 - In lieu of qualifications described in ‘A’, a candidate may qualify by meeting the criteria of required training and primary ABMS approved Specialty Board certification.
 1. If a candidate lacks certification by ABMS approved pain medicine specialty examination, a candidate can appear for ABIPP Part I – Theoretical Examination.
 2. If a candidate has completed ABMS-approved pain medicine specialty examination, he or she must successfully complete both competency examinations in controlled substances management and coding, compliance and practice management.

AND

- Candidate must complete ABIPP Part II – Practical Examination.
- 3) If a candidate has successfully completed the Fellow of Interventional Pain Practice (FIPP) examination and been certified by an ABMS primary board, but not by an ABMS subspecialty of pain medicine, this candidate may appear for ABIPP Part I – Theoretical Examination.

COMPETENCY CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS:

- A. For competency certification, a candidate must meet all the criteria listed below
- 1) Has met full licensure requirements in the United States.
 - 2) Candidates with institutional license, such as residents, may also appear for the examination.
 - 3) Should have completed ACGME approved residency in a primary specialty or is currently a resident enrolled in the ACGME approved residency program.
 - 4) Have a professional standing satisfactory to ABIPP.

- B. The competency certification examination in **CODING, COMPLIANCE, AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT** (CCCPM) is composed of the following subject areas: [Advance study guide](#)

1. DOCUMENTATION	20%
2. PRACTICE MANAGEMENT	20%
3. CODING AND BILLING	40%
4. COMPLIANCE	20%

- C. The competency certification examination in **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT** (CCCSM) is composed of the following subject areas: [Advance study guide](#)

1. Basic Science and Core Concepts	10%
2. Pharmacology	25%
3. Overview Of Clinical Use/Effectiveness	20%
4. Overview Of Abuse	25%
5. Miscellaneous	20%

DIPLOMATE EXAMINATION in Interventional Pain Management is composed of two parts:

PART 1 -- THEORETICAL EXAMINATION in Interventional Pain Management is composed of the following areas:

1. Anatomy and Physiology	10%
2. Pharmacology	10%
3. Psychology	5%
4. Assessment of Pain and Associated Conditions	5%
5. Diagnostic Testing	5%
6. Pain Syndromes	15%
7. Interventional Techniques	15%
8. Non- Interventional Techniques	10%
9. Coding, Compliance, and Practice Management	10%
10. Controlled Substance Management	10%
11. Ethics	5%

PART II -- PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

The practical examination will be as per Fellowship of Interventional Pain Practice, administered by the [World Institute of Pain](#)'s section of Interventional Pain Practice; or a developed curriculum and examination will be announced.

DISCLAIMER

No certification program can guarantee competence of successful treatment to the public, given the rapid changes in the medical knowledge and scientific developments. Consequently, ABIPP cannot warrant that the examination materials will at all times reflect the most current state of the art.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

ABIPP does not discriminate against those applying to take the examination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex or handicap.

Applicants must complete the application form, in a timely fashion, along with all required documentation to be eligible for review by ABIPP.

Please complete the application form very carefully and accurately. The information provided in the application, and any required accompanying documents, will be used by ABIPP to determine eligibility to appear for the examination.

PROCESSING OF THE APPLICATION

ABIPP independently verifies the information submitted in applications. State agencies or other licensing parties sometimes take time to respond to verification requests. ABIPP is not responsible if agencies do not reply in a timely fashion. The process is simple for competency certification examination. However, for board examination, it may take several weeks.

DETERMINATION OF PASSING SCORE

The passing score for the diplomate certification examination in interventional pain management is determined by a national panel of experts, representing the field of interventional pain management. Experts individually review each examination question and then judge what percentage of minimally competent interventional pain management physicians would answer the question correctly. The passing score is based on an expected level of knowledge; it is not related to the distribution of scores obtained during a particular administration. In any given year, a candidate has the same chance of passing the examination, regardless of whether the group taking the examination at that time tends to have high scores or low scores. Each candidate is measured against a standard of knowledge, not against the performance of other individuals taking the examination.

All the assumptions have been tested statistically.

SCORE REPORTING

Approximately 6 weeks after the administration of the examination, ABIPP will mail examination results. For the security of candidates, results are sent by mail only and are

not released by a telephone, mail, or by electronic communication devices.

Passing candidates will receive a letter, notifying them that they passed the examination. The examination is designed to assess knowledge associated with the minimum professional competency and is not intended to distinguish among scores above the passing point. Therefore, no numeric scores will be reported for passing candidates. The candidates will also receive a diagnostic report showing subject areas of strength and subject areas needing improvement and the questions missed.

Failing candidates will receive notice of their scores and a diagnostic report showing subject areas needing improvement.

All answer sheets will be destroyed one year after administration of the examination.

NUMBER OF TIMES

1. For the competency examination, there is no limit to the number of times candidates may apply for and take the examination.
2. For diplomate of ABIPP, the following rules apply:
 - There is no limit to the number of times candidates may apply for and take the examination.
 - There are no limitations for the number of attempts for written examination.
3. For oral and practical examination, a candidate should complete it within 3 attempts. A failure to do so will require a candidate to appear for written examination again.
4. After passing the written examination, the candidate will start the cycle over.
5. During reapplication, a candidate's activity must be evaluated by ABIPP before being approved to take the examination again.
6. Re-certification requirements are the same as certification requirements.

DIPLOMATE CERTIFICATION

Candidates will receive a certificate of board certification in interventional pain management by the American Board of Interventional Pain Physicians as Diplomate of the American Board of Interventional Pain Physicians (DABIPP), as long as they remain certified for 10 years.

These candidates certified by the examination are qualified to advertise as “board certified.”

COMPETENCY EXAMINATION

After satisfactory completion, candidates will receive a certification. However, these candidates should not use “board certified” as this is only a competency examination. The certification is valid for 10 years from date of certification.

RE-CERTIFICATION

All certificates expire 10 years after the results of the certifying examination are announced.

Re-certification after 10 years is similar to the certification process.