

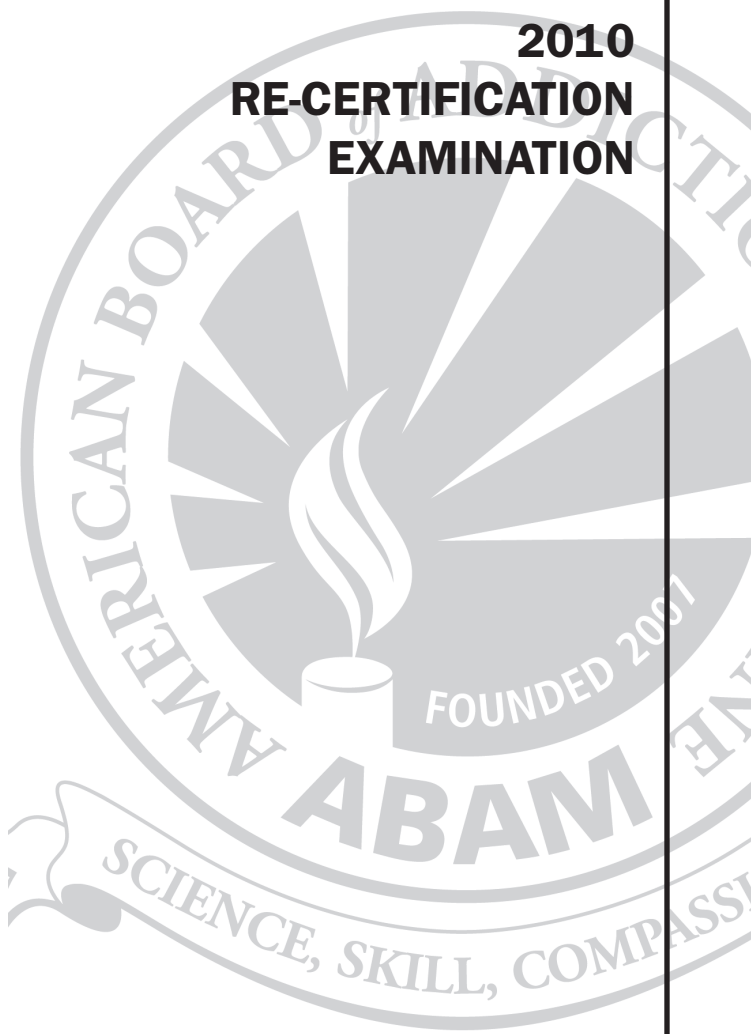
AMERICAN BOARD OF ADDICTION MEDICINE

**Booklet of
Information For the**

**2010
CERTIFICATION
EXAMINATION**

and the

**2010
RE-CERTIFICATION
EXAMINATION**



This booklet describes the 2010 American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) Certification and Re-Certification Policies and Procedures and Examination to be given on December 11, 2010. After that date, the next examination will be given in December of 2012. The eligibility criteria for application to the Examination is set by the ABAM Board of Directors. To date, nearly 2000 Physicians from across all medical specialties have been certified in Addiction Medicine by ABAM.

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I. Officers & ABAM History

A. Officers

President: Kevin B. Kunz, M.D., M.P.H.

President-Elect: Jeffrey H. Samet, M.D.,
M.A., M.P.H.

Treasurer-Secretary: Kathleen T. Brady,
M.D., Ph.D.

Specialty Directors

Emergency Medicine: Gail D'Onofrio, M.D., M.S.

Family Medicine: Richard D. Blondell, M.D.

Internal Medicine: Jeffrey H. Samet, M.D.,
M.A., M.P.H.

Obstetrics and Gynecology: Robert J. Sokol,
M.D.

Pediatrics: Hoover Adger, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.

Preventive Medicine: Kevin B. Kunz, M.D.,
M.P.H.

Psychiatry: Kathleen T. Brady, M.D., Ph.D.

Surgery: Larry M. Gentilello, M.D.

At-Large Directors

Surgery: Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H.

Psychiatry: Lon R. Hays, M.D., M.B.A.

Psychiatry: Elizabeth F. Howell, M.D.

Psychiatry: Michael M. Miller, M.D.

Psychiatry: Edward V. Nunes, M.D.

Internal Medicine: Patrick G. O'Connor,
M.D., M.P.H.

Pediatrics: Martha J. Wunsch, M.D.

Executive Vice President:

James F. Callahan, D.P.A.

Director Of Operations:

Christopher Weirs, M.P.A

Director Of Credentialing:

Terri A. Silver, M.A.

B. History and Purpose of ABAM

The American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) is an independent medical specialty board established in 2007. ABAM was established with the assistance and encouragement of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). ABAM's mission is to certify physicians as having the knowledge to recognize and treat patients with an addictive disorder, or with a medical or psychiatric condition related to the use of alcohol, nicotine or other addictive drugs, including some prescription medications. ABAM is the nation's first medical specialty board that certifies addiction medicine physicians across a range of medical specialties. ABAM sets standards for physician education, assesses physicians' knowledge and requires and tracks life-long education.

ABAM's Vision is that all patients in need will have access to a physician trained and board certified in addiction medicine, and that prevention, screening, intervention and treatment will become routine aspects of medical care. We seek to have addiction medicine recognized as a medical specialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

The ABAM certificate is widely recognized as signifying excellence in the practice of Addiction Medicine. It demonstrates that a doctor has met rigorous standards through intensive study, assessment, and evaluation. Certification is designed to assure the public that a medical specialist has successfully completed an approved educational program and an evaluation, including a secure examination designed to assess the knowledge requisite to the provision of high quality patient care. The examination is a five and half hour examination developed by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) and the ABAM Examination Committee, and is offered at approximately 400 nationally and internationally distributed Prometric Testing Centers.

II. Requirements for Examination

A. Certification

While the final step in the process of certification in Addiction Medicine is the successful completion of a written examination, there are certain eligibility requirements which must be met in order to sit for the examination. The requirements and the criteria for meeting them are established by the Board of Directors of ABAM. Eligibility can be established only after the review of a completed application by the Credentialing Committee. Applicants must meet each of the following six criteria in order to be accepted to sit for the ABAM certification examination given on December 11, 2010:

1. Licensure: A valid license to practice medicine in the state, territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States or in a Province of Canada in which the applicant practices; valid at the time of application and at the time of the examination. A valid medical license is a certificate to practice medicine which is issued by the appropriate agency and which certifies that a physician is allowed to practice medicine within that country, province or state. ABAM considers a medical license to be valid even if there have been stipulations/ conditions placed on the license. ABAM does not consider a license to be valid if it has been suspended, revoked, or surrendered.

2. Medical Education: Graduation from a medical school in the United States or Canada approved by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), or the Committee of Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS), or from a school of osteopathic medicine approved by the American Osteopathic

Association (AOA). If the applicant is a graduate of a medical school outside the United States or Canada, the applicant must have a currently valid standard certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG); or have passed the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE).

3. Board Certification and Residency

Requirements: This requirement must be completed by June 30th, 2010.

M.D.s. - Certification by a Member-Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), OR successful completion of a residency training program in any medical specialty.

Residency programs must be accredited by one of the following:

- The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
- The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or
- The Professional Corporation of Physicians of Quebec.
- Residency programs accepted by any Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties as qualifying to sit for that Member Board's certification examination will be accepted as qualifying to sit for the ABAM Certification Examination.

D.O.s. - Certification by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), OR completion of a residency training program in any medical specialty.

Residency programs must be accredited by one of the following:

- The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
- The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or
- The Professional Corporation of Physicians of Quebec.
- Residency programs accepted by any Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties as qualifying to sit for that Member Board's certification examination will be accepted as qualifying to sit for the ABAM Certification Examination.

4. Full Time Equivalent: This requirement must be completed by June 30, 2010. One year's full-time involvement or one full-time equivalent (1 FTE) in the field of alcoholism and other drug dependencies in addition to, and not concurrent with, residency training. One Full Time Equivalent is equal to at least 1920 hours over the last 10 years in teaching, research, administration, and clinical care of the prevention of as well as treatment of individuals who are at risk for or have a substance use disorder. At least 400 of these hours should have been spent in direct clinical care of patients. Hours used to meet the requirement must have been accrued between June 30, 2000 and June 30, 2010.

5. Life Long Learning: 50 hours of Category I Credit toward the AMA Physician Recognition Award. Credits must have pertained to the diagnosis and treatment of persons with alcoholism and other drug dependencies and must have been accrued over the two years immediately prior to the date of the examination. (Canadian or osteo-

pathic equivalent accepted.) The next examination will be given on December 11, 2010.

6. Professional Standing Good standing in the applicant's medical community as evidenced by at least one letter of recommendation by an ABAM or ASAM-Certified Physician, your Chief of Staff, or your Chief of Service.

B. Requirements for Re-Certification

The ABAM Board of Directors has established that recertification is required ten years after initial certification in order for certification to remain current. Re-Certification will be by examination.

Those candidates seeking initial certification and those candidates seeking recertification will be given the same examination, and the same scoring policy will be followed for both certification and recertification candidates.

2. Licensure: A valid license to practice medicine in the state, territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States or in a Province of Canada in which the applicant practices; valid at the time of application and at the time of the examination. A valid medical license is a certificate to practice medicine which is issued by the appropriate agency and which certifies that a physician is allowed to practice medicine within that country, province or state. ABAM considers a medical license to be valid even if there have been stipulations/ conditions placed on the license. ABAM does not consider a license to be valid if it has been suspended, revoked, or surrendered.

3. Professional Standing: Good standing in the applicant's medical community as evidenced by at least one letter of recommendation by an ABAM or ASAM-Certified Physician, your Chief of Staff, or your Chief of Service.

III. Policies

A. Application Instructions

Physicians, who wish to apply for certification or recertification, must complete, sign, and file with the ABAM office the enclosed certification application, together with the supporting data required by the application. Payment and application must be submitted together. Incomplete applications will not be accepted for review by the ABAM Credentialing Committee and will be returned to the candidate. Copies of the application can also be printed from the ABAM website (www.abam.net).

B. Deadlines and Fees

Applications will be accepted on the following filing schedule:

Certification Application Fees and Filing Schedule

Deadline	Deadline for Filing Application	Fee
Early	October 31, 2009	\$1,800
Standard	January 31, 2010	\$2,000
Late	April 30, 2010	\$2,200

Re-Certification Application Fees and Filing Schedule

Deadline	Application Filing Date	Fee
Early	October 31, 2009	\$1,050
Standard	January 31, 2010	\$1,150
Late	April 30, 2010	\$1,450

A completed application form and a completed letter of reference **must be postmarked with** a U.S. Postal Service cancelled stamp on or before October 31, 2009, to qualify for the Early Deadline; on or before January 31, 2010, to qualify for the Standard Deadline; and on or before April 30, 2010, to qualify for the Late Deadline. A commercial postage meter mark will not be accepted in place of the cancellation stamp. Applications for which all parts are not postmarked by April 30, 2010 will not be accepted for consideration and will be returned to the candidate unprocessed. Payment and application must be submitted together.

C. Review Process:

ABAM's Credentiaing Committee will review all applications which are complete by the deadlines set by the Committee. All applicants will be notified by September 1, 2010.

D. Examination:

Certification candidates must take and pass the examination, which is a test of cognitive knowledge and problem-solving ability relevant to Addiction Medicine. The examination is a five and half hour examination developed by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) and the ABAM Examination Committee, and is offered at approximately 400 nationally and internationally distributed Prometric Testing Centers. Questions include, but are not limited to, diagnosis, management, and prevention of addiction. Candidates must satisfactorily meet the requirements of application, including appropriate training, medical licensure, and continuing medical education,

before being approved to take the cognitive examination. The full day computer-based examination consists of five (5) sections, with 15 minutes of break time allotted for the optional tutorial and 15 minutes of break time allotted for the entire examination (30 minutes total). Once any section of the examination has been ended or timed out, you are not permitted to return to that section. Each Examination Section will consist of 50 Multiple Choice Questions (60 minutes), followed by an optional break should one choose to take it. Examinees may take all, part or none of the scheduled optional breaks. The break time listed is the minimum of allocated break time for the entire test day. If the examinee completes a testing block early, the remaining testing time for that block is converted into break time and added to their available break time balance. As the tutorial and practice examination may be reviewed before examination day, some examinees skip the tutorial on examination day. The allotted time for the optional tutorial on examination day is 15 minutes and unused tutorial time also gets added to the break time pool for that examinee

E. Examination Results:

Scores and individual performance data for both certification and recertification candidates will be reported to each examinee by March 15, 2011.

F. Re-Examination and Re-Certification:

For those who complete this process and pass the 2010 examination and subsequent examinations, certification is time limited and expires ten years after the date of initial certification. In the event of

a failing grade, there is no limit to the number of times a physician can retake the certification/recertification examination. Physicians who reapply must submit a new application, pay all applicable fees, and fulfill all requirements stipulated by the Board for the year of the examination being applied for.

G. Candidates Requiring Special Assistance:

ABAM will make every effort to accommodate candidates who have documented disabilities by providing modifications in the testing procedure which are appropriate for such disabilities without compromising the integrity of the examination process. The candidate must notify ABAM of the need for such accommodation in writing no later than May 30, 2010. Candidates requiring assistance are required to fill out both the 2010 ABAM Certification Examination Application and the 2010 ABAM Application for Testing Accommodations. The 2010 Application for Testing Accommodations can be found on the ABAM website at www.abam.net or may be requested by calling the ABAM office at 301-656-3378.

H. Alternate Date:

For those who cannot sit on Saturday, December 11, 2010, an alternative examination date is available. The alternative date is Monday, December 13, 2010. Requests to take the examination on the alternative date should be directed in writing to the ABAM Credentialing Director. Requests must include a description of the circumstances which require an alternative date. The applicant will be notified if the request is approved. Requests must be submitted no later than May 30, 2010.

I. Release of Information on Certification and Re-Certification Status:

Anyone can request information from the ABAM office about the certified status of any physician. An authorization for release of this information is a part of the examination application form. Upon request, the ABAM office will confirm whether a physician is certified or not either verbally or in writing.

J. Revocation of Certificate:

A certificate may be revoked if there has been substantive misrepresentation on the part of the applicant during the credentialing process. Before a certificate is revoked, the physician will be informed of the basis of such action and will be afforded a hearing.

K. Changes in Policies and Procedures:

The Board reserves the right to change its fees, policies, and procedures at any time, and cannot assume responsibility for giving advance notice thereof. The provisions of this publication are not to be construed as a contract between any candidate and the American Board of Addiction Medicine.

L. Appeals:

Applicants not accepted to sit for the certification examination may request additional review by a Review Committee of the ABAM Board of Directors. Any such request must be received by the ABAM Office within three weeks of the date of

the applicant's non-acceptance letter. The request must be made on the basis of information to be presented by the applicant in a personal interview. In the event that travel is required, any expense incurred by the applicant in traveling to the interview will be borne by the applicant.

M. Refund and Withdrawal Policy:

No refunds will be issued once an application has been received by ABAM. Candidates who choose to withdraw from the examination should notify ABAM by August 1, 2010. Candidates who withdraw by that date will not be eligible for a refund. However, upon receipt of the notification, ABAM will carry the candidate's fee forward to the next scheduled examination.

N. For Further Information

Inquiries should be addressed to the Credentialing director, American board of Addiction Medicine by phone, 301-656-3378, or by email to *email@abam.net*.

IV. Calender of Events

Important dates for the 2010 ABAM Examination

2009

October 31 Early Deadline for Application

2010

January 31 Standard Deadline
for Application

April 30 Late Deadline for Application

September 1 Exam Permits Mailed

September 30 Deadline to Register for
Exam Test Center

October 14-26 ASAM Review Course in
Addiction Medicine

October 27-30 CSAM Review Course in
Addiction Medicine

December 11 ABAM Examination

2011

March 15 Examination Results Mailed



American Board of Addiction Medicine

4601 N. Park Ave, Upper Arcade #101
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Tel: 301-656-3378 • Fax: 301-656-3815

email@abam.net www.abam.net