



ABP Corporate Policy

Time Limited Eligibility for Initial Certification Examinations

GENERAL PEDIATRICS

Overview of the Requirement:

Beginning with the examination administered in 2014, the American Board of Pediatrics requires that applicants have completed the training required for initial certification in general pediatrics within the previous 7 years (e.g., 2017 or later for examinations administered in 2024). If the required training was not successfully completed within the previous 7 years, the applicant must complete a minimum of 6 months of supervised practice. The purpose of the requirement is to provide the ABP with an independent assessment of the individual's contemporary competence to practice pediatrics without supervision. Such verification of contemporary competence is required before the ABP will allow an additional 7-year window of eligibility to sit for the certifying examination. The supervised practice may be completed through one of the following pathways:

Supervised Practice/Training Program Pathway:

New applicants and re-registrants for the general pediatrics certifying examination who have completed residency training prior to the 7-year eligibility window must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 6 months of supervised general pediatrics practice in the environment of an accredited training program that offers a breadth of general pediatrics experience. This practice must be supervised such that the program director and faculty of the accredited program can assess the individual's contemporary competence to practice pediatrics unsupervised. The program director of the accredited general pediatrics residency must submit the specifics of the planned experiences to the ABP for approval prior to initiation and then verify the individual's competence at the conclusion of the supervised practice. The ABP allows flexibility in the design of the clinical experiences, but they must include inpatient experience, newborn care, emergency care, recognition and stabilization of the ill child, and outpatient experience. Details of these requirements are outlined in an accompanying document, [Plan for Supervised Practice and Assessment of Competence in General Pediatrics in the Accredited Training Program](#).

Preceptor Pathway (For General Pediatrics Only)

The American Board of Pediatrics has approved programs for pediatricians to regain eligibility to the General Pediatrics Initial Certification Examination administered by two independent organizations, Center for Personalized Education for Professionals (CPEP) and the Knowledge, Skills, Training, Assessment and Research (KSTAR) program, which are organizations that provide assessment and education for physicians. The American Board of Pediatrics does not receive any financial benefit from CPEP or KSTAR or participants in these programs,

Applicants may participate in a pilot program that provides a pathway aided by a preceptor. Please note, to participate in CPEP or KSTAR, the applicant must be practicing in general pediatrics.

For additional information, please contact:

CPEP

info@cpepdoc.org

303-577-3232



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KSTAR
tladams@tamu.edu
979-436-0407

Following the satisfactory completion of the period of supervised practice through either the training program pathway or the preceptor pathway, the candidate will have 7 years to become certified. If unsuccessful in becoming certified during the additional 7 years of eligibility, the applicant must enter an accredited general pediatrics residency program and complete 3 years of training in order to regain eligibility. When applying or re-applying for certification, the applicant must meet the requirements for acceptance in effect at that time.

For additional information, please visit the [*Plan for Supervised Practice and Assessment of Competence in General Pediatrics in the Accredited Training Program*](#) and the [*Questions and Answers*](#) page.



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PEDIATRIC SUBSPECIALTIES

Overview of the Requirement:

Beginning with the examinations administered in 2014, the American Board of Pediatrics requires that applicants have completed the training required for initial certification in the pediatric subspecialties within the previous 7 years (e.g., 2017 or later for examinations administered in 2024) with one exception noted below.* If the required training was not successfully completed within the previous 7 years, the applicant must complete an additional period of supervised practice in a training program accredited by the ACGME in the US, or the RCPSC in Canada in order to apply for certification. The purpose of the requirement is to provide the ABP with an independent assessment of the individual's contemporary competence to practice the pediatric subspecialty without supervision. Such verification of contemporary competence is required before the ABP will allow an additional 7-year window of eligibility to sit for the certifying examination.

Details of the Requirement:

New applicants and re-registrants for subspecialty certification who have completed fellowship (or were approved on the basis of practice) prior to the 7-year time limit must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 6 months of supervised clinical subspecialty practice in the environment of an accredited training program, with the breadth of experiences comparable to the clinical experiences in fellowship. The supervised practice must be in the discipline in which certification is sought. This practice must be supervised such that the program director and faculty of the accredited program can assess the individual's contemporary competence to practice the subspecialty unsupervised. The program director of the accredited fellowship must submit the specifics of the planned experiences to the ABP for approval prior to initiation and then verify the individual's competence at the conclusion of the supervised practice. The ABP allows flexibility in the design of the clinical experiences as long they allow comprehensive assessment in all aspects of the subspecialty discipline needed for unsupervised practice. Details of these requirements are outlined in an accompanying document, [Plan for Supervised Practice and Assessment of Competence in a Subspecialty in the Accredited Training Program.](#)

Following the satisfactory completion of the period of supervised practice, the candidate will have 7 years to become certified. If unsuccessful in becoming certified during the additional 7 years of eligibility, the applicant must enter an accredited subspecialty fellowship program and complete 2 years of training in order to regain eligibility. The requirement for scholarly activity is waived. When applying or re-applying for certification, the applicant must meet the requirements for acceptance in effect at that time.

Exception:

*The following provision may apply to individuals who completed subspecialty training in the US or Canada before completing the accredited general pediatrics training required for certification by the ABP. Most of these individuals will have completed nonaccredited pediatrics training overseas or osteopathic pediatric training in the US. The provision is as follows:

Individuals who, solely because of their sequence of training, will not have an opportunity to take a subspecialty examination before their subspecialty eligibility has expired will be permitted one opportunity to take a subspecialty examination, provided that no more than 10 years have elapsed



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since their subspecialty training was completed and the individual is currently certified in general pediatrics.

For additional information, please visit the [Plan for Supervised Practice and Assessment of Competence in a Subspecialty in the Accredited Training Program](#) and the [Questions and Answers](#) page.