

# APPLICATION HANDBOOK 2010



## AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC BOARD OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Established 1954

### Affiliated Organizations

American Osteopathic Association  
American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

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## **I. CLASSIFICATIONS**

A. The American Osteopathic Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AOBPMR) is responsible for evaluation and recommendation for Board certification in the specialty areas of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

### **B. BOARD ELIGIBLE:**

1. Having met training and other requirements established by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the AOBPMR, the AOBPMR upon favorable recommendation from its Credentials Committee will register the applicant as “Board Eligible” (BE) in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. This designation entitles the registrant to sit for examination by the AOBPMR for a period of up to six (6) consecutive years from the date of completion of his/her residency training or completion of the practice, if applicable.. A registrant will generally lose his/her designation as “Board Eligible” by failure to successfully complete the Board’s examination process and receive Board Certification by the AOA within the 6 years of eligibility. Continuation of BE designation within this 6 year period is dependant on the registrant’s maintenance of credentials and other requirements as required by the AOA and the AOBPMR.
2. A resident who enters the last three months of a residency program where they have received AOA approval of their training may submit application for Board Eligibility. The AOBPMR will review their application for all other eligibility requirements. Upon documentation of satisfactory completion of residency training, and upon favorable recommendation from its Credentials Committee the AOBPMR will register the applicant as BE in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The date of eligibility will usually be established as the date of completion of residency, if all other requirements have been met.

C. **DIPLOMATE:** Only candidates designated by the AOBPMR as BE will be permitted to sit for Board certification examination. The AOA Bureau of Specialists (BOS) makes the determination for Diplomate status in the specialty area, upon successful completion of examination and recommendation to the BOS from the AOBPMR. Continuation of the designation of Diplomate is dependent upon maintenance of credentials and other requirements as established by the AOA and the AOBPMR.

### **D. RECERTIFICATION:**

1. Effective 2004, all Board Certifications are issued for a ten (10) year period. A Recertification process by examination is available for additional 10-year increments. Recertification is voluntary for Diplomates holding certificates issued prior to 1/1/2004 (non-time-limited). Failure to pass recertification examination for such non-time-limited Diplomates would not cause revocation of Diplomate status.
2. To be eligible to renew certification from the AOA through the AOBPMR, the Diplomate must meet the following minimum requisites:
  - a. Have maintained continuous membership in the AOA and conformed to the standards set forth in that organization, to include the Code of Ethics.
  - b. Accumulated the required Continuing Medical Education (CME), categories I or II, to maintain continued Diplomate status.
  - c. Have a valid State license within the State of Practice.
3. Recertification examination is designed to assess the Diplomate’s continued understanding of current specialty area knowledge and practice, as well as how well the Diplomate can apply this understanding to practical scenarios.

## **II. AOA REQUISITES DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY**

A. DEFINITION: Board eligibility is defined as that status granted candidates who:

1. Have documented the satisfactory completion of an AOA approved residency. The AOA Division of Postgraduate Education (DOPT) must approve a candidate's residency training (not the program itself) in order to meet this requirement of eligibility. For more information on obtaining AOA approval, please refer to the AOA Directory.
2. Have documented the satisfactory completion of an AOA approved internship.
3. Have been and remain members in good standing of the AOA or the Canadian Osteopathic Association.
4. Have met all the requirements as established by the appropriate specialty board (for AOBPMR requirement, please see section III).
5. Have applied for and have been accepted as a registrant by the appropriate specialty board.

B. TERMINATION OF BOARD ELIGIBLE STATUS

1. BE status shall terminate as of December 31 of the sixth year following the year eligibility was established.
2. If a candidate does not initiate examination within the period of board eligibility, the BE status will be automatically terminated and so recorded by the AOA and the AOBPMR.
3. Once an applicant is deemed BE, he/she has six (6) years to become certified by the AOBPMR for Diplomate (i.e., having passed the AOBPMR's certifying examination with final approval by the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS)).
4. BE candidates may be allowed to sit for the AOBPMR's examination at the first AOBPMR designated time following BE designation. Candidates are required to pass all portions of the examination process. Failure to successfully pass any portion of the exam (either oral or multiple choice/matching examinations) will require successful retesting of that failed portion of the examination process in subsequent testing period to receive AOBPMR approval recommendation to the BOS.

## **III. AOBPMR REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD ELIGIBILITY AND CERTIFICATION**

To be eligible to receive Board certification from the American Osteopathic Association through this Board, the applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

- A. The applicant must be a graduate of an AOA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine, holding the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy.
- B. The applicant must maintain an unrestricted license to practice in the state or territory where his/her practice is conducted.
- C. The applicant must be able to show evidence of conformity to the standards set forth in the Code of Ethics of the American Osteopathic Association.
- D. The applicant must have been a member in good standing of the American Osteopathic Association or the Canadian Osteopathic Association for a continuous period of at least two (2) years immediately prior to the date of certification.

- E. The applicant must have satisfactorily completed an internship of at least one (1) year in a hospital approved for intern training by the American Osteopathic Association, or by acceptable alternative pathways prescribed by the AOA.
- F. A period of not less than three (3) years of specialty training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation approved by the AOA shall be required, after the required one (1) year of AOA approved internship. This training shall include but is not limited to specific requirements of training outlined in the Basic Standards of Residency Training in Physiatry as supplied by the Practice Affiliate with AOA approval.

Alternately, the applicant may be an ABMS-Certified DO seeking AOA certification under the appropriate alternative pathway who has received approval from the AOA.

- G. The applicant must practice as an Osteopathic Physiatrist for a period of at least one (1) full time year subsequent to the minimum three (3) years of residency training, or must have completed as acceptable one (1) year of full time fellowship training, or an acceptable combination of these, subsequent to the minimum three (3) years of Residency training.

**V. EXAMINATION PROCESS AND FEES**

An examination shall be required and conducted in the case of each Board Eligible applicant. The method(s) and content of the examination procedure shall be determined by the AOBPMR and shall be subject to approval of the AOA Board of Trustees.

- A. Date and location of examination will be determined by the AOBPMR. Board examinations are generally provided annually in the fall, usually in conjunction with the AOA’s annual convention. The written examination is provided twice annually, once in conjunction with the AOCPMR’s mid-year conference, and then usually in conjunction with the AOA Convention each fall. Upcoming examination dates can be found on the AOBPMR’s website ([www.aobpmr.org](http://www.aobpmr.org)) or by contacting the AOBPMR staff via the contact information provided at the end of this handbook.
- B. The examination process shall be designed to explore the applicant’s familiarity with current advances, soundness of judgment and degree of skill/expertise in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. The examination process consists of multiple choice/matching examinations and oral examination. Applicants who do not successfully pass any segment(s) of the examination process are required to re-examine for that failed segment(s). Re-examination will be available at the next iteration of testing as scheduled by the AOBPMR.
- C. Recertification examinations are required at least every ten (10) years for all Board Certified individuals who have received Certification after 2004. Those with Board certification may apply and sit for recertification examination at any of the examination sessions where initial examination is provided (i.e., Board recertification when Board examination provided). Applications for Specialty Board examinations are available on our Website ([www.aobpmr.org](http://www.aobpmr.org)) or can be requested from the AOA Certifying Boards Office.

D. Examination and Processing Fees:

Board Examination Fee	\$1000.00
Retake Fee	\$400.00

## **VI. MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION**

- A. In order to maintain Board Certification, adherence to the following requirements must be met:
1. Payment of dues of the American Osteopathic Association or the Canadian Osteopathic Association.
  2. Payment of annual certification registration fee, unless the diplomate is classified as inactive.
  3. The diplomate must maintain a minimum of 150 hours of approved and documented AOA continuing medical education credits within a three-year period, at least one-third of which shall be in their primary specialty (Category I or II).
  4. Adherence to all of the rules and requirements of the AOA, to include the Code of Ethics.
- B. The Board has the power to recommend to the Bureau and the AOA Board of Trustees the revocation of the certificate of any diplomate whose certificate was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation, who exploits the certificate, violates the AOA Code of Ethics or is otherwise disqualified.
- C. Reinstatement of a certificate, which was revoked when the diplomate was dropped from AOA membership for nonpayment of dues, or for nonpayment of the annual registration fee, will be automatic upon reinstatement of the diplomate's AOA membership and/or payment of the registration fee.
- D. Reinstatement of a certificate, which was revoked for any other reason than that stated in paragraph C. above, shall require compliance with the requirements of paragraph A. above, as well as approval of the AOBPM, the BOS and the AOA Board of Trustees.

## **Appendix A: INSTRUCTIONS FOR REQUIRED SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION APPLICANTS**

Each applicant must submit five (5) multiple choice questions (which must be textually referenced) in the area of interest for the Board's review when applying for Board Eligibility. Multiple questions from common information sources are allowed.

Please note the following question construction is mandatory:

- five (5) item options for response
- K-type questions unallowable (e.g. "A.) 1, 2, and 4 are all correct.")
- No "all of the above" or "none of the above"
- No "except" questions, and matching-type questions

### **Question (Item) Writing Guidelines**

1. All questions (items) should be multiple choice. These can be of two types: One-best-answer; and Matching
  - a. One-Best-Answer items involve a question or incomplete statement followed by five possible answers. We prefer 5 equally plausible answers, if possible. Only one of the answers is correct. These one-best-answer type of questions can, in turn, be of two types:
    - i. Single items or
    - ii. Cases.
      1. A SINGLE ITEM is independent of all other items. That is to say, it stands alone and the answer is dependent only the information contained in the question stem itself.

2. A CASE is a group of one-best-answer items preceded by a header, or introduction, which sets up a scenario to be used in completing a group of items that follow the scenario.
  - a. Each item should be dependent on the case history;
  - b. Each item should NOT give away the answer to any other item
- b. A Matching set includes a list of similar words or phrases (distractors) followed by numbered items (Case Scenarios) to be matched.
  - i. Matching sets can contain 5 answers
  - ii. The answers should be alphabetized
  - iii. You DO NOT have to have the same number of items as possible answers
  - iv. Each answer may be used once, more than once, or not at all.
2. We require the content of the questions to be:
  - a. Generally accepted as correct
  - b. Appropriate for Residency trained individuals
  - c. Verifiable with standard medical publications
  - d. Consistent with the current standard of care
3. General Guidelines
  - a. The question stem must lead to one specific answer
  - b. DO NOT test the concept of “which one is not like the others”. This means DO NOT use stems including the words EXCEPT, LEAST, or NOT
  - c. Please avoid using the terms ALWAYS, NEVER, FREQUENTLY, AND RARELY.
  - d. We do not accept items that use as possible answers: “All of the above”, “none of the above”, “A and B are both correct (or other combinations).
  - e. Try not to teach in the stem of the question. AVOID the use of unnecessary information.
  - f. If Osteopathic terminology is to be used, it should be referenced to the latest copy of the Glossary of Osteopathic Terminology prepared by the Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles of the AACOM.
  - g. Include the correct answer
  - h. THE SOURCE OF THE CORRECT ANSWER MUST BE INCLUDED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE QUESTION. Identify the source, author, page, and publisher. Information should be sufficient enough to enable one to locate the source and to verify the answer.

#### Examples

##### 1) One-Best-Answer

The major environmental source of lead absorbed in the human blood stream in adults is:

- a. Air
- b. Food
- c. Lead-based paint
- d. Soil
- e. Water

Correct answer is a.

Source\_\_\_\_\_

The phrase “The major environmental source of lead absorbed in the human blood stream in adults is:” is called the stem of the question. The responses a,b,c,d,e are each called a distractor or an answer. There must be only one correct answer.

2) Case study

You are asked to do a prospective surveillance of nosocomial infections in a local hospital.

1. Based on national data, you expect the incidence of nosocomial infections to be

- a. <1%
- b. 1-2%
- c. 3 – 5%
- d. 6-8%
- e. 9-10%

2. You expect the most common site of infection to be

- a. Urinary Tract
- b. Surgical wounds
- c. Respiratory tract
- d. Blood stream
- e. Gastrointestinal Tract

Correct Answer: 1-c, 2-a

Source(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Both the above questions refer to nosocomial infections in a hospital. The first question does not influence the second question. All questions have the correct answer shown.

3) Matching

For each item listed below select one lettered option, that is most closely associated with it. Each lettered option may be selected once, more than once, or not all.

Please match the researcher for whom each theory is most likely to be associated.

1. The distribution of consumption model, which showed that minor variations in availability of alcohol has no effect on consumption.

2. A psychoanalytic theory that states that drug use might represent an attempt to cope with painful emotions.

- a. De lint
- b. Horton
- c. Khantzian
- d. Rado
- e. Smart

Correct answer: 1-a, 2-d

Source \_\_\_\_\_

The statements numbered 1 and 2 above are considered phrases against which the possible answers are to be matched. Options a through e are the answers (or distractors). Notice that there are more possible responses than questions. This is permissible.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the *National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners Item Writing Guide*. 1999, National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.

AOBPMR EXAMINATION SCHEDULE FOR 2010:

<b>Exam Date</b>	<b>Exam Location</b>	<b>Exam(s) Offered</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>
Saturday, April 24	Annapolis, MD Loews Hotel in conjunction with the AOCPMR Mid-Year Conference	Part I Written	February 24, 2010
Saturday, October 23 – Sunday, October 24	San Francisco, California details TBA in conjunction with the AOA Annual Meeting	Part I Written and Part II Oral	July 15, 2010

**For more information concerning the American Osteopathic Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, write or call:**

Ellen Woods, MSC  
Executive Director, AOBPMR  
142 East Ontario Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Chicago, IL 60611

Phone: (800) 621-1773, extension 8226

Fax: (312) 202-8422

E-Mail: [aobpmr@osteopathic.org](mailto:aobpmr@osteopathic.org)

Website: [www.aobpmr.org](http://www.aobpmr.org)

**For more information concerning the American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, write or call:**

Stephanie Wilson  
Executive Director, AOCPMR  
PO Box 4  
Philipsburg, NJ 08865-0004

Phone: (908) 329-0270

Fax: (908) 213-8903

E-mail: [aocpmr@hotmail.com](mailto:aocpmr@hotmail.com)