

The American Board Of Family Practice: Recertification Process For The Certificate Of Added Qualifications In Geriatric Medicine

The Geriatric Medicine Certification Program, jointly developed by the American Board of Family Practice (ABFP) and the American Board of Internal Medicine, announces the recertification process for the certificate of added qualifications (CAQ) in geriatric medicine. The first examination was offered in 1988 with subsequent examinations given biennially in even-numbered years. The certificates are valid for a 10-year period, and completion of a recertification process is required for renewal. The following is a brief description of the recertification process for the CAQ in geriatric medicine. One element of the process is the recertification examination that will be offered annually. The first recertification examination will be held on November 19, 1997, for ABFP Diplomates whose CAQ in geriatric medicine is dated 1988–1998. The content and scoring of the examination are identical for both boards; however, the application requirements differ.

The ABFP requirements for the recertification process in geriatric medicine include:

- Current primary certification in family practice at the time of the examination
- Completion of a geriatric pre-application form and submission of a \$400 application fee
- Successful completion of three self-evaluation process (SEP) modules (*see explanation*)
- Completion of a formal geriatric examination application form with an accompanying \$350 examination fee
- Verification that all licenses held in the US and Canada are valid and unrestricted
- Successful completion of a half-day cognitive examination

The process will be completed over a 2-year period and will begin in the 8th year of geriatric certification.

The self-evaluation process *modules are at-home, open book examinations of 60 questions each. All candidates must successfully complete three modules to be*

eligible to sit for the examination. The SEP modules will be scored and feedback statements will be provided on the incorrect answers. No references to the literature will be given with the feedback. Should a candidate be unsuccessful on any of the SEP modules, the candidate will be required to repeat the particular module until successful.

Pre-application

ABFP Diplomates holding the CAQ in geriatric medicine will receive a geriatric pre-application form in the 8th year of their geriatric certificate. Diplomates may choose to take the geriatric recertification examination in either the 9th or 10th year of their certificates. If the Diplomate chooses to participate in the 9th year, the pre-application form will be returned to the ABFP by a specified deadline with a nonrefundable application fee. Candidates choosing not to take the examination in the 9th year of the certificate will receive another pre-application form in the 10th year.

SEP Modules

Candidates participating in the cognitive examination in the 9th year of the certificate will be sent all three SEP modules in one mailing. The three SEP modules are to be completed and returned as a unit within a 9-month completion period. After the SEP modules are scored and deemed successfully completed, a formal application with the feedback from the SEP will be sent to the candidate. The formal application will require verification of valid and unrestricted license(s) to practice in the US or Canada, an examination fee, two photographs, and a signed and notarized statement. Upon approval of the formal application, the candidate will be permitted to sit for the half-day cognitive examination to be given at test sites across the country. Specific dates and locations will be provided at the time of formal application.

In March 1996 pre-application forms will be mailed to all holders of the CAQ in geriatric medicine whose certificates expire in 1998. If you have not received your pre-application by April 1996 please notify our office:

ABFP — CAQ in Geriatric Medicine
2228 Young Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505-4294
(606)269-5626, ext. 250; fax (606)266-4089

Sample Timetable for Holders of Certificates Expiring 1998

- March 1996 — File pre-application with \$400 fee
- June 1996–March 1997 — Complete three self-evaluation modules
- April–July 1997 — File application with \$350 examination fee, verify licensure
- Nov. 19, 1997 — 1/2 day cognitive examination