



American Board of Adolescent Psychiatry

Continuing Certification in Adolescent & Young Adult Psychiatry Requirements

Updated May 27, 2022

The Continuing Certification period will be for a period of five years after expiration of the initial 10- year certification.

The following requirements have been established by the American Board of Adolescent Psychiatry (ABAP) to ensure that Diplomates of ABAP retain and maintain competence in the treatment of adolescents, young adults, and their families:

1. **Option 1: Annual Continuing Education:** For each year of ABAP certification (excluding the partial year of certification after initially passing the certification examination), Diplomates must attend and submit proof of the equivalent of 10 hours of Category I CME per year specific to child and/or adolescent/young adult psychiatry. For Diplomates completing their initial 10-year certification, this would be 100 hours. For those completing their subsequent 5-year recertification periods, this would be 50 hours. **It does not matter when during the period that the credits accrue, if they are both relevant to clinical child, adolescent, and young adult psychiatry and completed during the required certification period.**

Diplomates are urged by not required to submit their CME documentation for review and acceptance via the ABAP website each 1-2 years to assure that they do not run short at the time they recertify due to unacceptable CME. **The monitoring of this CME process is entirely the responsibility of each Diplomate and from 7-1-22 forward, ABAP will not routinely remind Diplomates to submit their CME.** Failure to obtain and submit the required CME at the time of recertification will result in the Diplomate taking the Recertification Examination (see below).

2. **Option 2: Recertification Examination:** Diplomates who do not wish to submit or have not completed the required CME documentation in Option 1 above must pass a

recertification examination before they are able to recertify. The recertification examination is a 50-question, online examination completed after submission of the recertification application at the time of recertification.

At the time recertification is required (after 10 years initially, and then every 5 years subsequently), Diplomates are required to submit a recertification application which is available online via the ABAP website. In addition to verifying their current credentials and practice focus, Recertifying Diplomates are also required to submit a case report of an adolescent Successful completion of a case report of an adolescent (age 12 or older), or young adult (age 27 or younger) patient written to follow guidelines described below. Acceptable sources for this report include patients evaluated by and/or treated by the psychiatrist, patients whose treatment was supervised by the psychiatrist, or cases evaluated in the course of the psychiatrist's role as a consultant. Cases in which the psychiatrist provided medication management with another professional providing psychosocial treatment are acceptable provided the report addresses the full spectrum of the patient's treatment.

Whatever the psychiatrist's role, the evaluation report should show evidence of a prominent level of clinical reasoning and decision-making, and the ability to synthesize the data obtained from all relevant sources. It must include relevant cultural information and an assessment of psychological and social functioning. The treatment plan and/or recommendations should reflect patient needs and available resources. If available, information about the course of treatment and changes made in diagnosis or treatment should be presented and discussed.

After a report is reviewed by the American Board of Adolescent Psychiatry, if inadequacies are found, the report is returned to Diplomate for correction. Diplomates will have only one opportunity to resubmit a complete report. If their report is still incomplete at that time, they will be asked to present a case orally via virtual means to members of the Board for consideration, and an additional fee may be assessed at that time.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

This report needs to be TYPEWRITTEN, COMPREHENSIVE AND DETAILED. Incomplete, handwritten, or checklist format reports will be returned as unsatisfactory.

Candidates submitting reports deemed by the Board to be unsatisfactory will be given ONE opportunity to submit an amended or alternative report. Candidates who fail the second time will be required to meet virtually with members of the Board for an oral presentation and case review (an additional fee may be assessed by the Board at that time as a condition for the oral presentation).

For the convenience of candidates, we have prepared a template that allows the typing of the report in real time and assure that the required elements are included. The template allows candidates to directly upload the form to the ABAP office. The form template may be accessed via a link found in the Recertification Application.

For those candidates wishing to submit their own typewritten report, the report must include the following required elements:

Report Outline:

I. Identifying information

For example: This is a ___ yr old female /male, grade ___ student, of ___ ethnicity or racial group, who lives with _____.

II. Context of the evaluation

- a. Source of referral: for example, family doctor or PCP, parents/CAS or CYS i.e., Child Protection Services, Juvenile Justice i.e., Judge X of what court /Probation School, self.
- b. Setting of evaluation (for example, private office, residential treatment center, community service organization)
- c. Reason for Referral
- d. Sources of data: documentation reviewed and source of this documentation
- e. Participants in interview and the family or other relationship to the identified patient (IP)
- f. Persons interviewed (for example, parents with IP; IP individually; parents without IP; IP and staff from facility; staff without IP etc.)

III. Relevant data

- a. Chief complaint
- b. History of present illness,
- c. Past psychiatric history
- d. Relevant family, social and developmental history
- e. Cultural factors
- f. Medical history
- g. Mental status examination

IV. Synthesis and organization of data

- a. Biopsychosocial formulation^{1 1}
 - b. Differential diagnosis with discussion of data that support the diagnosis (or diagnoses)
 - c. Initial diagnostic impression
 - d. Comprehensive treatment plan
 - e. Course of treatment (if applicable)
 - f. Current status of patient and family (as applicable)
3. Current certification by either American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, The American Osteopathic Association, The National Board of Physicians and Surgeons, or The Royal College of Medicine of Canada in psychiatry.
4. Current license in a state or territory in the United States or a province of Canada

The American Board of Adolescent Psychiatry may revoke the certification of Diplomates who do not meet all requirements for continued certification.

The ABAP reserves the right and responsibility to alter these requirements with adequate notice to the field of psychiatry.

The fee schedule for maintenance of certification:

- Recertification Application fee included with one case management report fee and certificate: \$500
- Late Fee (if submitted after December 31st) \$100.00
- Grace period of 6 months ends June 30th of year after certification expires.

¹ Please download and review the PowerPoint presentation “Evaluation and Formulation in Adolescent Psychiatry” posted on the ASAP website.