

CERTIFICATION IN TRANSPLANT HEPATOLOGY

BACKGROUND

Certification in Transplant Hepatology, jointly developed by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) for diplomates in certified in gastroenterology, is designed to recognize the qualifications of physicians who are specialists in transplant hepatology. Transplant hepatology encompasses the special knowledge and skills required of gastroenterologists to care for patients prior to and following hepatic transplantation; it spans all phases of liver transplantation. The examination will be administered to candidates from both Boards at the same time in the same testing centers. Participation in the certification program is voluntary. Certification is not required of practitioners in this field, and the certificate does not confer privilege to practice.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To achieve Transplant Hepatology Certification, you must hold **current, valid ABIM certification in Gastroenterology** at the time of application for the examination and fulfill all of the following requirements:

- Satisfactory completion of formal training requirements;
- Demonstrate clinical competence, procedural skills, and moral and ethical behavior in the clinical setting;
- Hold a valid, unrestricted and unchallenged license to practice medicine; and
- Pass the Transplant Hepatology Certification Examination.

Note: Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) should contact that Board for information regarding certification requirements.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The practice pathway for admission to the Transplant Hepatology Certification Examination closed in 2010 and is no longer available. If you were previously admitted to the Transplant Hepatology Certification Exam through the practice pathway and were unsuccessful on the examination, you can continue to take the Transplant Hepatology Certification Exam, subject to the rules of the ABIM Re-Examination Policy.

All other diplomates must hold current, valid ABIM certification in Gastroenterology and satisfactorily complete 12 months of clinical transplant hepatology training. (**Please note:** Transplant hepatology fellowship training, which was credited toward the 36 months of required gastroenterology fellowship training, cannot be used to fulfill requirements for admission to the Transplant Hepatology Certification Examination.)

Approved transplant hepatology training must meet the following criteria:

- **Training Prior to July 2011** - Transplant hepatology fellowship training undertaken prior to July 1, 2011 must be conducted within an institution that has an accredited gastroenterology program.
- **Training Post July 2011** - Transplant hepatology fellowship training undertaken July 1, 2011 and thereafter must be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).
- Training experience must include meaningful patient care responsibility for perioperative care of 20 liver transplant patients in an UNOS-approved transplant center; and include performance of at least 30 percutaneous liver biopsies, including allograft; interpretation of 200 native and allograft liver biopsies; and knowledge of indications, contraindications and complications of allograft biopsies.

CLINICAL COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS

ABIM will require substantiation by your training program director affirming that your clinical competence as a transplant hepatology consultant is satisfactory, and that you are in good standing in the medical community.

CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

The ABIM Transplant Hepatology Certification Examination is a comprehensive one-day examination of multiple-choice questions in the single best answer format with an absolute standard for passing. The Transplant Hepatology Examination blueprint includes the content areas covered, their relative percentages and the approximate number of questions for each content area to be included on a typical examination. For the most up-to-date information about what is included in the examination, go to www.abim.org and choose Transplant Hepatology under “Get Information by Subspecialty.”

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION AND REGISTRATION

The ABIM Transplant Hepatology Certification Examination is administered via computer and is offered in even-numbered years. Because seat availability at centers may be limited, early registration is encouraged.

- Registration for the examination is open from March 1 through May 1 of the year of the examination and late registration is open from May 2 through June 1.
- A non-refundable late fee will be added to applications received during the late registration period.
- Applications will not be accepted after June 1.
- To register for the examination, go to the Physician Login at www.abim.org during the general or late registration period.
- After registering, you will receive a letter from ABIM authorizing you to schedule a test center appointment with Pearson VUE, the company that administers the exam.

Note: Diplomates of the ABP must apply for the examination through that Board.

RECOGNITION OF SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMATES

Upon successful completion of the requirements for ABIM certification in Transplant Hepatology, you will be awarded an ABIM Certification in Transplant Hepatology. Certification status is reported at www.abim.org and at the website of the American Board of Medical Specialties, www.abms.org.

Note: Diplomates from the ABP will be recognized by that Board.

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

To be eligible to renew your ABIM certification in Transplant Hepatology, you must hold current, valid ABIM certification in Gastroenterology and complete the ABIM Maintenance of Certification program. Additional information about the requirements for Maintenance of Certification is posted at www.abim.org.

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HAVE QUESTIONS?

Call the ABIM Customer Service Department at [1.800.441.ABIM](tel:1.800.441.ABIM) or e-mail them at request@abim.org.



American Board
of Internal Medicine

510 Walnut Street | Suite 1700
Philadelphia, PA 19106 - 3699

[1.800.441.ABIM](tel:1.800.441.ABIM) | www.abim.org

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ABIM is one of 24 medical specialty boards that make up the
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