

**THE AMERICAN BOARD OF ANESTHESIOLOGY®**  
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**BOARD CERTIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION  
IN ANESTHESIOLOGY PAIN MEDICINE**

The computer-administered examination of the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) together with recommendations of Program Directors and Department Chairs provide documentation of training and knowledge. Based on the results of these, as well as documentation of satisfactory clinical practice, physicians are certified in anesthesiology pain medicine.

**The Maintenance of Certification process** is intended to provide evidence that these factors are still present and that the diplomate meets the qualifications for the ABA Anesthesiology Pain Medicine Recertification examination.

The ABA defines a Board certified anesthesiologist pain specialist as a physician possessing the essential attributes, professional skills, intellectual, motor and technical skills for assuming independent responsibility for care of patients with acute, chronic and oncologic pain with reasonable accommodation or without it. These elements are now further defined as guides for directors of Anesthesiology Pain Medicine programs.

**ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES:**

The physician must possess those abilities, traits and skills that are essential to the practice of anesthesiology pain medicine. These include all of the following:

1. Demonstrates high standards of ethical and moral behavior.
2. Demonstrates honesty, integrity, reliability, and responsibility.
3. Learns from experience; knows limits.
4. Reacts to stressful situations in an appropriate manner.
5. Has no documented current abuse of alcohol or illegal use of drugs.
6. Has no cognitive, physical, sensory or motor impairment that precludes acquiring and processing information in an independent and timely manner or independent responsibility for any aspect of anesthesiology pain medicine.
7. Demonstrates respect for the dignity of patients and colleagues, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.
8. Has no restriction, limitation or revocation of license to practice medicine.

**PATIENT CARE:**

1. Demonstrates patient care that is compassionate, appropriate and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.
2. Respects patient privacy.
3. Demonstrates appropriate concern for patients and a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities.
4. Is an advocate for quality care.
5. Ability to obtain clinical data employing the history and physical examination and laboratory,
6. Ability to obtain and use clinical data to evaluate the patient with pain.
7. Synthesis and organization of patient data.
8. Clinical judgment in planning diagnostic and therapeutic strategy.
9. Ability to appropriately use technical skills in diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.
10. Completeness of management of acute, cancer, and chronic pain.

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**MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE:**

1. Possesses an appropriate fund of medical knowledge.
2. Is appropriately self-confident; recognizes gaps in knowledge and expertise.
3. Demonstrates medical knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and cognate sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

**PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT:**

1. Demonstrates learning and improvement that involves the investigation and evaluation of care for patients, the appraisal and assimilation of scientific evidence and improvements in patient care.
2. Is committed to practice-based learning and improvement.
3. Possesses business skills important for effective practice management.
4. Is complete, accurate and timely in record keeping.

**INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS:**

1. Demonstrates effective interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families and other healthcare professionals.
2. Is adaptable and flexible.
3. Is careful and thorough.

**PROFESSIONALISM:**

1. Demonstrates a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities.
2. Adheres to ethical principles.
3. Demonstrates sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

**SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE:**

1. Demonstrates an understanding of the healthcare system and the ability to effectively call on system resources to provide optimal patient care.
2. Demonstrates an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care.