

ARTICLE VII. CERTIFICATION

Section 7.1 GENERAL CERTIFICATION AND SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION.

Member Boards may issue general certificates of qualification to specialists in the fields represented by such Member Boards and subspecialty certificates of qualifications to specialists in the fields represented by such Member Boards.

- a) When approved by the ABMS in accordance with the provisions of Section 7.2 below, a Member Board may issue, alone or in conjunction with another Member Board, certificates to designate qualifications in one or more subspecialty areas of the specialty field represented by that Board. When authorized by the ABMS for subspecialty certification, the Member Board may establish subspecialty committees or sub-boards in the approved subspecialty, without further authorization from the ABMS. Subspecialty certification is conferred by one or more Member Boards in a component of the specialty or subspecialty authorized by the ABMS for certification by one or more Member Boards.
- b) While subspecialty certification is intended to apply primarily to diplomates of the sponsoring Member Board(s), boards may accept applicants holding certificates from other Member Boards for examination and subspecialty certification authorized by the ABMS on a case by case basis or by establishing additional pathways to encompass more than one individual. The additional pathways to subspecialty certification must be 1) endorsed by the board sponsoring the subspecialty certification; 2) endorsed by the board whose diplomates are being proposed for certification; and 3) approved by the Reserved Powers Board.
- c) Training programs leading to general certification and subspecialty certification must be associated with a residency accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or equivalent Canadian accredited residency.
- d) The program for training required for general certification must be a minimum of three (3) years in duration and subspecialty certification must be a minimum of one (1) year in duration. General certification and subspecialty certification incorporate a specific and identifiable body of knowledge that may include certain procedural skills or practice modes, but must not be limited only to training in a technical skill.
- e) Approval of any general certification or subspecialty certification must be accomplished by the mechanism and process authorized in Section 7.2. The Member Board(s) seeking authorization to issue general certification or subspecialty certification in a proposed area must provide assurance that the Member Board will conduct an evaluation of the impact and effect of the proposed general certificate or subspecialty certificate on its own general and subspecialty training and practice as well as that of other Member Boards.

- f) All future applications from the Member Boards for authorization to issue subspecialty certificates will be approved by the ABMS with the name of the subspecialty designation only.

Section 7.2 NEW CERTIFICATION, MODIFICATION OF EXISTING TYPES OF CERTIFICATION, OR CHANGE IN NAME.

- a) Prior approval of the ABMS is required if any Member Board proposes creation of a new type of certification, substantive modification of existing requirements for certification, or change in its name. Intent to submit a proposal for an additional or a new form of certification must be announced to all Member organizations at least six months before the meeting at which the formal proposal will be submitted for a vote. A proposal for such action by a Regular Member may be submitted to the President at any time. The proposal shall be considered by the COCERT and the Board of Directors, each of which shall prepare and submit recommendations. The proposal and the recommendations of COCERT and the Board of Directors shall be submitted to the Reserved Powers Board for decision provided, however,
 - i. that not less than ninety (90) days prior to the first date of consideration by COCERT or the Board of Directors, whichever date is earliest, each Member shall have been provided with a copy of the proposal and notice that the proposal will be submitted to a vote of the Reserved Powers Board on a date certain; and
 - ii. that approval of the proposal shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes cast at a regular meeting of the Reserved Powers Board at which a quorum is present.
- b) A request from a Member Board for a new or modified general certificate or subspecialty certificate must be forwarded to the President in the form determined by COCERT, with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- c) If a Member Board creates a new certification, modifies an existing certification, or changes its name without prior approval of this Corporation, then a grievance may be brought against the Member Board pursuant to these Bylaws.

Section 7.3 CHANGE IN CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Primary and Conjoint Boards have the responsibility of establishing their own educational requirements for certification and may change such requirements without being required to submit such change for prior approval of the ABMS; however, such Members shall forward to the President written notice of any change in the Member's certification requirements at least sixty (60) days before the proposed change is to become effective.

Section 7.4 CHANGES IN WORDING OF CERTIFICATES.

Any change in the wording on an existing certificate which refers to or names the areas of practice or the areas of training or specialization of the holders of such a certificate shall constitute a substantive modification of an existing type of certificate and shall be subject to the provisions of Section 7.2 of the Bylaws of the ABMS. Any change in an existing certificate shall be submitted to the Membership for information.