ABP Time Limited Eligibility For Initial Certification Examinations

• Established in 2009; effective for exams in 2014
• Applies to all who have not achieved certification by 12/31/2013
• Initial requirement to regain eligibility was 12 months of training in an accredited program
• Revised 2014 to require 6 months of supervised practice in an accredited program
• Three cohorts have lost eligibility
ABP Time Limited Eligibility For Initial Certification Examinations

• Eligibility Deadline is established 7 years from the completion of required training, regardless of whether individual has applied for certification.

• Formal status of Board Eligibility without review and acceptance of an applicant is not recognized by ABP
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• Policy also applies for subspecialty certification

• Increased complexity for subspecialties

  ➢ Exams are administered every other year

  ➢ Initial Certification in general pediatrics is required; eligibility can expire without an attempt if applicant fails to achieve general pediatrics certification
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• In establishing policy, ABP’s focus was time away from training,

• Non standard pathways that require other specialty training for eligibility to apply for certification complicate the determination of the eligibility deadline

• Practice pathways for new certifications also must be taken into account
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Communication is Critical!

• Paper communications and emails to all affected
• Personal letters sent to Affiliated/Partner Organizations
• Multiple mentions in Program Director and Trainee newsletters
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Communication is Critical!

• Established a data field for Eligibility End date for all candidates accepted for exams
• Nearly all of the initial certification internal processes must reference this date
• Eligibility End Date is now reflected in the applicant’s portfolio and in most communications
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Supervised Practice in the Accredited Program

• Nearly 100 training programs (~50 pediatrics, ~50 subspecialty) have participated

• Issues include: funding for experience, obtaining insurance

• Differences exist for programs participating in the experience. Some programs are unwilling or unable to offer the experience; some programs are charging significant fees
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Implications and Observations:

• ABP reviews each plan for supervised experience and the final verification of competence at the end of the experience.

• Explaining the policy to those who have lost eligibility can be challenging and time consuming.

• Each board might consider establishing guidelines for extenuating circumstances affecting individuals who may be unable to take an exam in the final year of eligibility.