



ABMS Member Board Requirements for Initial Certification in a Subspecialty

This table identifies the requirements by Member Board for initial certification in a subspecialty. Some subspecialty certificates are offered by Member Boards to physicians who possess an active specialty certificate from another Member Board. Please refer to the Underlying Certification Requirement column. [Contact the Member Board](#) to confirm all requirements. Footnotes can be found on page 10.

Subspecialty Certificate	Issuing Board American Board of	Underlying Certification Requirement for Subspecialty Eligibility	Training Requirement ⁽¹⁾	Additional Requirements	Board Eligibility ⁽²⁾		Assessment	
			All boards require attestation by program director	All boards require current and unrestricted license	Board Eligible period (plus additional practice requirement)	Transition Date	Traditional Secure Exam (computer- based)	Practical/Oral
Addiction Medicine	Preventive Medicine (ABPM)	Certification from any ABMS Member Board	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Addiction Psychiatry	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Psychiatry certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Adolescent Medicine	Family Medicine (ABFM)	ABFM general certification	2 years	Completion of one self-assessment activity, one performance improvement activity, and additional activities from these two groups to equal a total of 50 points	7 years	*	x	
	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
	Pediatrics (ABP) ^(†)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Adult Cardiac Anesthesiology	Anesthesiology	ABA General Certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Adult Congenital Heart Disease	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM certification in Cardiovascular Disease or ABP certification in Pediatric Cardiology	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM certification in Cardiovascular Disease	1 year	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Blood Banking/ Transfusion Medicine	Pathology (ABPath)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical or Pathology-Clinical certification or certification from any ABMS Member Board.	1 year		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	x	
Brain Injury Medicine	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR) ^(†)	ABMS Member Board general certification, or Sports Medicine subspecialty certification by ABEM, ABFM, ABIM, ABP	1 year		7 years	*	x	
	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Psychiatry, Neurology, or Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Cardiovascular Disease	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	3 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Child Abuse Pediatrics	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Psychiatry certification	2 years		7 years	*	x	



ABMS Member Board Requirements for Initial Certification in a Subspecialty *(continued)*

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			All boards require attestation by program director	All boards require current and unrestricted license	Board Eligible period (plus additional practice requirement)	Transition Date	Traditional Secure Exam (computer-based)	Practical/Oral
Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM certification in Cardiovascular Disease	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Clinical Informatics	Pathology (ABPath)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical, Pathology-Anatomic, or Pathology-Clinical certification	2 years		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	x	
	Preventive Medicine (ABPM) ^(†)	Certification from any ABMS Member Board	2 years		7 years	*	x	
Clinical Neurophysiology	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Neurology or Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Complex Family Planning	Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG)	ABOG general certification	2 years	Hospital privileges, case list, practice requirements	7 (+1) years	*	x	Oral exam includes case list assessment
Complex General Surgical Oncology	Surgery (ABS)	ABS certification in Surgery	2 years	Hospital privileges, patient log, practice requirements	7 years	*	x	x
Complex Pediatric Otolaryngology	Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHNS)	ABOHNS general certification	1 year		7 years	1/1/2025	x	x
Congenital Cardiac Surgery	Thoracic Surgery (ABTS)	ABTS general certification	2 years	Patient log, practice requirements, program director endorsement	7 years ⁽⁴⁾	*	x	x
Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Psychiatry certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Critical Care Medicine (Anesthesiology)	Anesthesiology (ABA) ^(†)	ABA general certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
	Emergency Medicine (ABEM)	ABEM general certification	2 years		7 years	*	x	
	Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG)	ABOG general certification	1 year		7 (+1) years	*	x	
Critical Care Medicine (Internal Medicine)	Internal Medicine (ABIM) ^(†)	ABIM general certification	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
	Emergency Medicine (ABEM)	ABEM general certification	2 years		7 years	*	x	
Cytopathology	Pathology (ABPath)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical or Pathology-Anatomic certification	1 year		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	x	



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Dermatopathology	Dermatology (ABD)	ABD general certification	1–2 years		5 years	*	x	
	Pathology (ABPath) ^(†)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical or Pathology-Anatomic	1 year		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	x	
Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Emergency Medical Services	Emergency Medicine (ABEM)	Certification from any ABMS Member Board	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Epilepsy	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN, Neurology, or Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Forensic Psychiatry	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Psychiatry certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Gastroenterology	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	3 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Geriatric Medicine	Family Medicine (ABFM)	ABFM general certification	1 year	Completion of one self-assessment activity, one performance improvement activity, and additional activities from these two groups to equal a total of 50 points	7 years	*	x	
	Internal Medicine (ABIM) ^(†)	ABIM general certification	1 year	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Geriatric Psychiatry	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Psychiatry certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Gynecologic Oncology	Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG)	ABOG general certification	3 years	Hospital privileges, case list, practice requirements	7 (+1) years	*	x	Oral exam includes case list assessment
Hematology	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Hematopathology	Pathology (ABPath)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical, Pathology-Anatomic, or Pathology-Clinical certification or certification from any ABMS Member Board	1 year		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	x	



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Hospice and Palliative Medicine	Anesthesiology (ABA)	ABA general certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
	Emergency Medicine (ABEM)	ABEM general certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
	Family Medicine (ABFM)	ABFM general certification	1 year	Completion of one self-assessment activity, one performance improvement activity, and additional activities from these two groups to equal a total of 50 points	7 years	*	x	
	Internal Medicine (ABIM) ⁽¹⁾	General certification from ABCRS, ABIM, ABNS, ABOG, ABOP, ABOHNS, ABOS, ABPMR, ABPN, ABPS, ABR, ABS, ABTS, or ABU	1 year	For Internal Medicine candidates: Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general or subspecialty certification	1 year	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Infectious Disease	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Interventional Cardiology	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM certification in Cardiovascular Disease	1 year	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG)	ABOG general certification	3 years	Hospital privileges, case list, practice requirements	7 (+1) years	*	x	Oral exam includes case list assessment
Medical Biochemical Genetics	Medical Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG)	ABMGG Clinical Genetics and Genomics certification or certification by another ABMS board	1 year	Patient log, recommendation letters	6 years	*	x	
Medical Oncology	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Medical Toxicology	Emergency Medicine (ABEM) ⁽¹⁾	Certification from any ABMS Member Board	2 years		7 years	*	x	
	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	2 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
	Preventive Medicine (ABPM)	ABPM general certification	2 years		7 years	*	x	
Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery	Dermatology (ABD)	ABD general certification, ABOHNS general certification, or ABPS general certification ⁽⁶⁾	1–2 years		5 years	*	x	



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Molecular Genetic Pathology	Medical Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG)	ABMGG Clinical Genetics and Genomics certification or ABPath general certification	1 year	Patient log, recommendation letters	6 years	*	x	
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Nephrology	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Neurocritical Care	Anesthesiology (ABA)	ABA general certification	1–2 years		7 years	*	x	
	Emergency Medicine (ABEM)	ABEM general certification	1–2 years		7 years	*	x	
	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM certification in Critical Care	1 year	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director or senior attester	7 years	*	x	
	Neurological Surgery (ABNS)	ABNS general certification	1–2 years			1/1/2025	x	
	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) ⁽³⁾	ABPN Neurology or Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology certification	1–2 years		7 years	*	x	
	Surgery	ABS certification in Surgical Critical Care	1–2 years		7 years	*	x	
Neurodevelopmental Disabilities	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology or ABP certification	6 years (2 years Pediatrics; 4 years residency)		7 years	*	x	
Neuromuscular Medicine	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR)	ABPMR general certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) ⁽³⁾	ABPN Neurology or Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Neuropathology	Pathology (ABPath)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Clinical or Pathology-Anatomic certification or Pathology-Clinical certification or certification from any ABMS Member Board or the RCPSC	2 years (3 years if certified Pathology-Clinical only or by another Member Board)		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	x	
Neuroradiology	Radiology (ABR)	ABR Diagnostic Radiology or Interventional and Diagnostic Radiology certification	2 years (1 year fellowship, 1 year practice)	Practice requirements	6 years	1/1/2025	x	



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Neurotology	Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHNS)	ABOHNS general certification	2 years		6 years	1/1/2025		×
Nuclear Radiology	Radiology (ABR)	ABR Diagnostic Radiology or Interventional and Diagnostic Radiology certification	1 year		6 years	1/1/2025	×	
Orthopaedic Sports Medicine	Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS)	ABOS general certification	1 year	Hospital privileges, patient log, practice requirements	7 (+2) Years ⁽⁶⁾	*	×	
Pain Medicine	Anesthesiology (ABA) ^(†)	ABA general certification	1 year		7 years	*	×	
	Emergency Medicine (ABEM)	ABEM general certification	1 year		7 years	*	×	
	Family Medicine (ABFM)	ABFM general certification	1 year	Completion of one self-assessment activity, one performance improvement activity, and additional activities from these two groups to equal a total of 50 points	7 years	*	×	
	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR)	ABPMR general certification	1 year		7 years	*	×	
	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Psychiatry, Neurology, or Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology certification	1 year		7 years	*	×	
	Radiology (ABR)	ABR Radiation Oncology, Diagnostic Radiology, or Interventional and Diagnostic Radiology certification	1 year		6 years	1/1/2025	×	
Pathology-Chemical	Pathology (ABPath)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical or Pathology-Clinical certification or certification from any ABMS Member Board	1 year		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	×	
Pathology-Forensic	Pathology (ABPath)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical; Pathology-Anatomic certification	1 year		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	×	
Pathology-Medical Microbiology	Pathology (ABPath)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical, Pathology-Anatomic, or Pathology-Clinical certification or certification from any ABMS Member Board	1 year		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	×	
Pathology-Molecular Genetic	Pathology (ABPath) ^(††)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical, Pathology-Anatomic, or Pathology-Clinical certification or certified by the ABMGG	1 year		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	×	



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Pathology-Pediatric	Pathology (ABPath)	ABPath Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical or Pathology-Anatomic certification or RCPSC	1 year		7 years ⁽³⁾	*	x	
Pediatric Anesthesiology	Anesthesiology (ABA)	ABA general certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Cardiology	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Critical Care Medicine	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Dermatology ⁽⁷⁾	Dermatology (ABD)	ABD general certification	1–2 years		5 years	*	x	
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	Emergency Medicine (ABEM)	ABEM general certification	2–3 years		7 years	*	x	
	Pediatrics (ABP) ^(†)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Endocrinology	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Gastroenterology	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Hematology-Oncology	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Hospital Medicine	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	2 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Infectious Diseases	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Nephrology	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Pulmonology	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Radiology	Radiology (ABR)	ABR Diagnostic Radiology or Interventional and Diagnostic Radiology certification	1 year		6 years	1/1/2025	x	



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Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR)	ABPMR general certification	0–2 years		7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Rheumatology	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	3 years	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Surgery	Surgery (ABS)	ABS certification in Surgery	2 years	Hospital privileges, patient log, practice requirements	7 years	1/1/2025	x	x
Pediatric Transplant Hepatology	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP Gastroenterology certification-generally 3 years of gastroenterology training	1 year	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
Pediatric Urology	Urology (ABU)	ABU general certification	2 years	Patient log, peer review, professional responsibility action review, and surgical complication narrative reviews	6 years ⁽⁵⁾	*	x	
Plastic Surgery Within the Head and Neck	Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHNS)	ABOHNS general certification	N/A			1/1/2025		
	Plastic Surgery (ABPS)	ABPS general certification	N/A	Hospital privileges, practice requirements	7 (+2) years	*		
Pulmonary Disease	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility	Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG)	ABOG general certification	3 years	Hospital privileges, case list, practice requirements	7 (+1) years	*	x	Oral exam includes case list assessment
Rheumatology	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	2 years	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	



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Sleep Medicine	Anesthesiology (ABA)	ABA general certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
	Family Medicine (ABFM)	ABFM general certification	1 year	Completion of one self-assessment activity, one performance improvement activity, and additional activities from these two groups to equal a total of 50 points	7 years	*	x	
	Internal Medicine (ABIM) ⁽³⁾	ABIM general certification	1 year	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
	Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHS)	ABOHS general certification	1 year			1/1/2025	x	
	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general or subspecialty certification	1 year	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Psychiatry, Neurology, or Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Spinal Cord Injury Medicine	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR)	Certification from any ABMS Member Board	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Sports Medicine	Emergency Medicine (ABEM)	ABEM general certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
	Family Medicine (ABFM) ⁽³⁾	ABFM general certification	1 year	Completion of one self-assessment activity, one performance improvement activity, and additional activities from these two groups to equal a total of 50 points	7 years	*	x	
	Internal Medicine (ABIM)	ABIM general certification	1 year	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
	Pediatrics (ABP)	ABP general certification	1 year	Program director documentation of competency and professionalism	7 years	*	x	
	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR)	ABPMR general certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Surgery of the Hand	Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) ⁽³⁾	ABOS general certification	1 year	Hospital privileges, patient log, practice requirements	7 (+2) years ⁽⁸⁾	*	x	
	Plastic Surgery (ABPS)	ABPS general certification	1 year	Hospital privileges, practice requirements, case log review with minimums, peer evaluations	7 (+2) years	*	x	
Surgical Critical Care	Surgery (ABS)	ABS certification in Surgery or Vascular Surgery, or ABEM general certification	1 year	Hospital privileges, patient log, practice requirements	7 years	*	x	



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Transplant Hepatology	Internal Medicine (ABIM) ^(†)	ABIM certification in Gastroenterology	1 year	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	*	x	
Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine	Emergency Medicine (ABEM)	ABEM general certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	
	Preventive Medicine (ABPM) ^(†)	Certification from any ABMS Member Board	1 year		7 years	*	x	
Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery	Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) ^(†)	ABOG general certification	3 years	Hospital privileges, case list, practice requirements	7 (+1) years	*	x	Oral exam includes case list assessment
	Urology (ABU) ^(†)	ABU general certification	2 years	Patient log, peer review, professional responsibility action review, and surgical complication narrative reviews	6 years ⁽⁵⁾	*	x	
Vascular Neurology	Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)	ABPN Neurology or Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology certification	1 year		7 years	*	x	

(†) Some subspecialty certificates are co-sponsored (issued by multiple boards). Member Boards marked with (†) are the ones which administer the examination for that subspecialty certification. See Table 2C for a list of co-sponsored subspecialty certificates.

(1) Training must be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the accrediting body for post-MD or post-DO medical training programs in the United States. Contact the board regarding other credit accepted.

(2) The ABMS Eligibility Policy for Subspecialty Certification, effective January 1, 2018, limits the period of time that may elapse between a specialist's training and achievement of initial certification in a subspecialty. ABMS Member Boards that did not have an existing policy in place have established a transition plan. Member Boards marked with an asterisk (*) had board eligibility policies in place prior to the effective date of the ABMS policy. Their board eligible periods align with the principles of the policy.

(3) If a diplomate completed training before 2019, they must obtain certification within their period of board eligibility which is 5 years from the completion of subspecialty training or primary certification, whichever is later.

(4) ABTS requires diplomates to apply within one year of completing training.

(5) ABU requires applicants to complete the examination process within six years with up to three attempts to take the examination.

(6) ABOHNS and ABPS diplomates may be eligible for Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery certification through the ABD upon completion of additional requirements.

(7) Pediatric Dermatology training is accredited by ABD.

(8) ABOS allows a maximum of nine years to complete certification in Surgery of the Hand. This policy also applies to Sports Medicine, pending review by the board.