Orientation for New Program Directors

APPD Meeting – September 10, 2009
Plenary Session
Update from the ABP

1. Introduction to the ABP
2. Role of program directors in certification process
3. In-training Examinations (ITE and SITE)
4. Online GP Program Director’s Guide to the ABP
5. Nonstandard Training Pathways
6. Time Limit on Eligibility for Initial Cert Exam
7. Maintenance of Certification (MOC)
8. Miscellaneous Items
Established 1933

Purpose:
To advance the science, study, and practice of pediatrics and to provide assurance to the public and the profession that those individuals certified have successfully completed an accredited educational program and fulfill the continuous evaluation requirements that encompass the six core competencies.
Accreditation:
Training programs are reviewed by the Residency Review Committee to ensure that they are meeting certain pre-specified criteria.

Certification:
Individuals are evaluated after training to determine whether or not they meet the standards set forth by the ABP for certified specialists and subspecialists.
Role of PDs in Certification Process
Tracking and Evaluation

• Part of the certifying process

• PDs and faculty are key in determining who is eligible for the examination

• PDs provide annual roster of trainees and evaluation of clinical competence and professionalism
In-Training Evaluation Issues

• ABP asks PDs for end of year evaluation in two areas: clinical competence & professionalism

• Unsatisfactory evaluation means resident receives no credit for year; must repeat

• Unsatisfactory in professionalism alone: at ABP’s discretion and PDs recommendation, a period of observation in lieu of a repeat year

• Marginal: if resident receives 2 consecutive marginal ratings must repeat the latter year
Role of PDs in Certification Process
Tracking and Evaluation

- Structured evaluation system
  - Clear decision on annual status of resident or fellow
  - Documentation of problems and remediation

- Transfers, leave, new additions communicated to ABP

- Transfers:
  - ABP will release information regarding summary evaluations obtained through tracking, dates of training, and credit provided
Verification of Clinical Competence

- Verification of training dates
- Satisfactory evaluation in all six competencies required
- Fellowship PDs also verify that scholarly activity requirement has been met
Residents should be instructed not to share questions with peers who have not taken exam.

ABP does not approve special test accommodations. Approval may be granted by programs with no assurance that the ABP will approve for certification exam.

Security of exam is a key priority!
ITE Security

• ABP monitors certification exams by means of external software designed to detect misconduct.

• Beginning in 2010, ABP will apply same security measures to ITE:
  - Require seating chart
  - Assess integrity of exam sites by screening test results for possible copying
  - Identify candidates whose response patterns are similar and unlikely to have occurred by chance

• In 2010: Reports of potential misconduct provided to PDs based on statistical probability.
ITE is a valid self-assessment instrument for the single competency of medical knowledge

**Appropriate Use:**
- Assess strength & weakness in general pediatrics knowledge at time exam is taken and progress from year to year
- Compare performance with local and national peer groups
- Provide counseling and remediation
- Use accumulated results over several years to assess program
Misuse:
• High stakes decisions (ie, placement into fellowship; sole means to determine satisfactory completion of year of training)

Why:
• Variability of administration (night call, rotations completed), preparation for exam, and security of exam
SITE Examination

- Four-hour computer delivered exam with brief tutorial, 200 multiple choice questions and end of exam survey

- Not intended to be educational tool but to provide global assessment of current knowledge at time of testing

- Overall percent score reported (no passing score) as well as comparative national data included means and S.D. by training year

- More specific feedback provided on individual performance consisting of total number of items in each core content area and number answered correctly
SITE Examination

- ABP will offer SITE over internet (ie, delivered in your local institution) in 2011

- Exam must be proctored in a secure environment

- ABP received positive feedback from PDs regarding feasibility of this option by means of e-mail survey
A new “General Pediatrics Program Directors Guide to ABP” is available on-line for one-stop shopping:

- Info on training and evaluation
- Links to policies and non-standard training pathways
- FAQs regarding leaves, credit for previous training, waivers of training etc.
- ABP Staff contact information
- Schedule of mailings and important deadlines
Non-Standard Training Pathways

- Designed to provide flexibility while ensuring competence

- Each pathway differs in:
  - Content of general pediatrics training
  - Length of general pediatrics and fellowship training
  - Time of eligibility for certification examinations

- Pre-approval required for:
  - Special Alternative Pathway (SAP)
  - Integrated Research Pathway (IRP)
  - Waiver for Non-Accredited Training for IMGs
Non-Standard Training Pathways

- For those pathways that do not require pre-approval, ABP must be notified on tracking roster at end of PL-1 year:
  - Accelerated Research Pathway (ARP)
  - Peds-Child Neurology Pathway
  - Peds-Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Pathway

- Tracking rosters have section to indicate which residents are in pathways that do not require pre-approvals

- Check ABP Web site for detailed information on requirements for each pathway
Time Limit on Eligibility for Initial Certifying Examination

- Candidates will no longer have an unlimited time to become certified

- Beginning with 2014 administration of initial certifying exams in GP and its subspecialties, applicants must have completed training required for certification within the previous seven years

- If training was not completed within that time frame an additional period of accredited training will be required

- Detailed policy is available on ABP Web site and will be widely disseminated
Beginning in 2010 - Important Changes Are Coming:

• For those certified in 2010 and beyond: no end date on certificate and automatic enrollment in MOC

• Five year cycles to accumulate points in Part 2 (Self-assessment & Life Long Learning) and Part 4 (Performance in Practice) with a menu of options

• Secure exam every 10 years (Part 3)
Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

Available on ABP Web site:

- A customized PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes that provides an overview of MOC and addresses specific questions and concerns unique to residents and fellows
• All applicants must submit a valid (current) unrestricted state medical license by published deadline for all exams. License waiver has been discontinued

• Deadlines for exam registration and withdrawal are firm – no exceptions ever!

• Credit for previous training must be sought before entering residency. Usually granted at PL-1 level
Miscellaneous Items

  - Eligibility and training requirements for general pediatrics and all subspecialties, PD information, ABP policies, etc.
  - 2008 – 2009 Workforce Data available for viewing and downloading from ABP Web site
  - Look for info on MOC for you and your trainees