



The AMERICAN BOARD of NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY, INC.®

Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties

**SUMMARY OF NEW PROCESS FOR CANDIDATES WHO WISH TO OBTAIN AN
ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATE IN PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY**

As many pediatric neurological surgeons are aware, for years the American Board of Neurological Surgery (“ABNS”) and the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery (“ABPNS”) have had parallel and somewhat overlapping certification processes. In an effort to streamline those processes, the following will apply.

1. Requirements for Obtaining Additional Joint Certificate in Pediatric Neurological Surgery.

Commencing on July 1, 2017, physicians who wish to obtain both (a) an initial certification in general neurological surgery issued by the ABNS; and (b) an additional initial certification in pediatric neurological surgery, which certification shall be issued jointly by the ABNS and the ABPNS (except as set forth in Section 2 in cases where the physician received residency training in Canada), must meet the following requirements:

- a. Successful completion of a neurological surgery residency program in the United States accredited by the ACGME;
- b. Successfully pass the ABNS primary (written) examination for credit during residency;
- c. Successful completion of a post-residency pediatric neurological surgery fellowship of at least twelve (12) months duration accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pediatric Neurosurgical Fellowships (the “ACPNF”);
- d. Successfully pass a primary pediatric neurological surgery subspecialty written examination (the “Pediatric Written Examination”) following completion of their pediatric neurological surgery fellowship and prior to submitting their practice data for approval in connection with their application for the ABNS oral examination;

- e. Approval of the physician’s credentials by the Directors of both the ABNS and the ABPNS following review of the physician’s credentials (e.g., licensure, hospital privileges, reference letters) by a Joint Credentials Committee of the ABNS and ABPNS;
 - f. The submission of a case log with the time limits mandated by ABNS rules and the successful review of the case log by the Joint Credentials Committee; and
 - g. Successful completion of the ABNS oral exam within the time limits mandated by ABNS rules.
2. Certificates. Physicians who meet the requirements set forth in Section 1 will be deemed “Certified” by both the ABNS and the ABPNS. They will receive a 10-year time-limited certificate in general neurological surgery issued by (and containing the logo of) the ABNS (identical to the initial certificates currently received by all new ABNS Diplomates), as well as an additional 10-year time-limited certificate in pediatric neurological surgery issued by (and containing the logos of) both the ABNS and ABPNS. Notwithstanding the forgoing, physicians who received their neurological surgery residency training in Canada, but otherwise meet the requirements set forth in Section 1, will be deemed “Certified” in pediatric neurological surgery by the ABPNS and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (the “RCPSC”), but not the ABNS. Such individuals will receive a 10-year time-limited certificate in pediatric neurological surgery issued by (and containing the logos of) the ABPNS and the RCPSC (but not the ABNS).
3. Case Logs. The number of cases to be submitted for initial certification (and the time period in which they must be performed) shall be the same as for physicians seeking to obtain ABNS certification only, but for the additional ABNS/ABPNS certification the ABNS and ABPNS may impose additional requirements as to the number or percentage of cases that must be performed on patients under certain age thresholds.
4. Existing Diplomates.
- a. Time Limited ABNS Certificates. For those pediatric neurosurgeons who have already been certified by both the ABNS (in general neurological surgery) and the ABPNS (in pediatric neurological surgery) as of July 1, 2017 and have time limited certificates from both organizations, their certificates issued separately by the ABNS and ABPNS will remain valid (through their ten-year expiration date) so long as such individuals remain in good standing with respect to their certificates as defined by both the ABPNS and the ABNS. Such individuals must successfully complete the ABNS MOC program and the additional requirements of the ABNS/ABPNS MOC

- program by the date that their ABPNS or ABNS certificate expires (whichever is first), in order to obtain both a renewal certificate from the ABNS (in general neurological surgery) and a jointly issued renewal certificate from both the ABNS and ABPNS (in pediatric neurological surgery) pursuant to Section 5, below. (As noted in Section 5, if such individuals successfully complete the ABNS MOC program but not the additional requirements of the ABNS/ABPNS MOC program, they will receive a renewal certificate from the ABNS in general neurological surgery but not from the ABNS/ABPNS in pediatric neurological surgery).
- b. Non-Time Limited ABNS Certificates. For those pediatric neurosurgeons who already have been certified by both the ABNS and the ABPNS as of July 1, 2017 and have a time limited certificate from the ABPNS but a non-time limited certificate from the ABNS, their certificate issued by the ABNS will remain valid indefinitely and their ABPNS certificate will remain valid through its ten-year expiration date, so long as such individuals remain in good standing with respect to their certificates as defined by both the ABPNS and the ABNS. Such individuals must successfully complete the ABNS/ABPNS MOC program by the date that their ABPNS certificate expires in order to obtain a jointly issued renewal certificate in pediatric neurological surgery from both the ABNS and ABPNS pursuant to Section 5, below.
5. MOC Requirements. The requirements for successful completion of the ABNS MOC program in each ten year cycle, and the requirements for successful completion of the joint ABNS/ABPNS MOC program in each ten year cycle, shall be largely identical and overlapping (so as to avoid duplication), except that (a) those who seek to successfully complete the ABNS/ABPNS MOC cycle will have their applied learning exam (formerly called the cognitive exam) geared to their pediatric practice; and (b) those who seek to successfully complete the ABNS/ABPNS MOC cycle must, in addition to completing all MOC elements that apply to all ABNS Diplomates, submit a case log to the ABPNS periodically (which must be approved by the ABPNS) to demonstrate that their practice remains geared to pediatrics. Any Diplomat who successfully completes the ABNS/ABPNS MOC cycle will also have successfully completed the ABNS MOC cycle and will receive two renewal certificates: one from the ABNS in general neurological surgery and one from the ABNS and ABPNS in pediatric neurological surgery. However, it is possible that an ABNS/ABPNS Diplomat could successfully complete the ABNS MOC program in a ten year cycle but not the ABNS/ABPNS MOC program. That could happen, for example, if the Diplomat's case log demonstrating an ongoing pediatric focus is not submitted or not approved, or if the Diplomat fails to take or successfully complete the applied learning tool in pediatric neurological surgery and opts instead to take (and successfully completes) the applied learning tool in general neurological surgery. In that event, the Diplomat would receive a renewal certificate from the ABNS in general neurological surgery but not a

renewal certificate from the ABNS/ABPNS in pediatric neurological surgery.

6. Discipline and Hearings. Disciplinary actions and related hearings for Diplomates with both a general ABNS Certificate and a joint ABNS/ABPNS Certificate will be handled jointly and generally will be administered by the ABNS. Except in extraordinary circumstances, any discipline imposed (and the outcome of any hearing) will apply equally to both the Diplomat's ABNS and ABPNS Certificates and status.

Neurological surgeons who devote a significant portion of their practice to pediatric cases are encouraged to seek certification from the ABNS/ABPNS in pediatric neurological surgery, in addition to certification from the ABNS in general neurological surgery. However, the absence of certification from the ABNS/ABPNS in pediatric neurological surgery does not imply that a neurological surgeon is not competent to perform pediatric cases. The certificate from the ABNS in general neurological surgery is given to neurological surgeons who have met ABNS requirements across the full range of neurological surgery practice.