



The American Board  
of Physical Medicine  
and Rehabilitation

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA EXTENDED FOR  
PAIN MEDICINE SUBSPECIALTY EXAMINATION

September 2003 – The American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR) announces that the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has approved a request to extend the temporary criteria for the Pain Medicine subspecialty examination.

Temporary criteria allows ABPMR Diplomates to complete 12 months of formal training in Pain Medicine or the completion of the equivalent of 24 months (2 years) of full-time practice in Pain Medicine in order to take the subspecialty examination. Diplomates seeking qualification by way of non-ACGME accredited training in the subspecialty must have satisfactorily completed residency training required for general certification prior to September 1, 2004. Diplomates seeking qualification by way of practice must have satisfactorily completed residency training requirements for general certification prior to September 1, 1998.

**For candidates meeting the criteria outlined above**, the following extensions have been granted:

1. For candidates qualified by way of training, satisfactory completion of 12 months of unaccredited formal training in Pain Medicine is acceptable for candidates applying for examination in Pain Medicine through the 2006 Pain Medicine examination. After the 2006 Pain Medicine examination, candidates applying or reapplying for examination in Pain Medicine must complete the continuum of education in pain medicine in an ACGME-accredited pain medicine program to qualify for the examination.
2. For candidates qualified by way of practice, those candidates would be allowed to apply for the 2004 Pain Medicine examination. After the 2004 examination, candidates applying or reapplying for the examination in Pain Medicine may only gain admissibility by way of training.

Application materials for the 2004 Pain Medicine subspecialty examination will be available on January 1, 2004. Materials may be downloaded from the ABPMR website at [www.abpmr.org](http://www.abpmr.org), or requested from the Board office in writing by fax, e-mail, or mail. Please see the ABPMR website or call the ABPMR office for more information.