

Added Qualifications



The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) currently offers Certificates of Added Qualifications (CAQs) in the subspecialties of Sports Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, Sleep Medicine, Adolescent Medicine, and Pain Medicine. We also offer a Designation of Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine.

Family physicians must currently be board-certified Diplomates of ABFM to apply for, and maintain, a subspecialty certificate or designation of focused practice. These certificates/designations are valid for 10 years, as long as you maintain your primary certificate in Family Medicine. Successful performance on the subspecialty examination is required for initial certification and re-examination is required every 10 years.



Certificates of Added Qualification

Adolescent Medicine

The CAQ in Adolescent Medicine is offered in conjunction with the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Internal Medicine. This certificate recognizes excellence among those Diplomates whose practices emphasize the total health care of adolescents.

Geriatric Medicine

The CAQ in Geriatric Medicine is offered in conjunction with the American Board of Internal Medicine. This certificate recognizes excellence among those Diplomates whose practices emphasize care of older adults.

Hospice & Palliative Medicine

The CAQ in Hospice and Palliative Medicine is offered in conjunction with the American Board of Internal Medicine and eight other ABMS specialty boards. This CAQ recognizes excellence among those Diplomates whose practices emphasize the care of seriously ill and dying patients with life-limiting illnesses.

Pain Medicine

The CAQ in Pain Medicine is offered in conjunction with the American Board of Anesthesiology. This CAQ recognizes excellence among those Diplomates whose practices have a focus on caring for patients with a broad range of pain disorders.

Sleep Medicine

The CAQ in Sleep Medicine is offered in conjunction with the American Board of Internal Medicine, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Otolaryngology. This certificate recognizes excellence among those Diplomates whose practices emphasize care of patients with sleep problems and specific sleep disorders.

Sports Medicine

The CAQ in Sports Medicine is offered in conjunction with the American Board of Emergency Medicine, the American Board of Internal Medicine, the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. This certificate recognizes excellence among those Diplomates whose practices emphasize expertise in the care of patients with a broad range of sports-related or sports-impacted conditions.

Added Qualification Requirements

Certificate of Added Qualification	Current and Continuous ABFM Family Medicine Certification Required	ACGME Accredited Fellowship Training	Submission of Online Application	Successful Examination
Adolescent Medicine	✓	2 Years	✓	✓
	✓		✓	✓
Geriatric Medicine	✓	1-2 Years	✓	✓
	✓		✓	✓
Hospice and Palliative Medicine	✓	1 Year	✓	✓
	✓		✓	✓
Pain Medicine	✓	1 Year	✓	✓
	✓		✓	✓
Sleep Medicine	✓	1 Year	✓	✓
	✓		✓	✓
Sports Medicine	✓	1 Year	✓	✓
	✓		✓	✓
Designation of Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine	✓	N/A	✓	✓
	✓		✓	✓



Exam Dates – 2021

Examination	2021 Examination Dates	2021 Exam Registration Opens
Certification		
Continuous Certification	January 13 – September 30, 2021	October 16, 2020
Certification	November 3, 2021	February 12, 2021
Continuous Certification	April 6, 2021	October 16, 2020
	November 3, 2021	February 12, 2021
Certification		
Continuous Certification	November 1, 2021	February 12, 2021
Certification	September 11, 2021	December 4, 2020
Continuous Certification	September 11–25, 2021	December 4, 2020
Certification	November 3, 2021	February 12, 2021
Continuous Certification	November 3, 2021	February 12, 2021
Summer	July 6–10, 2021	February 12, 2021
Fall	November 8–13, 2021	July 16, 2021
Spring	May 3, 2021	October 16, 2020
Fall	November 18, 2021	February 12, 2021

Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine Designation

The American Board of Family Medicine, in conjunction with the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), offers a Designation of Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine (DFPHM). This program sets standards for, assesses, and recognizes the specific knowledge base of family physicians who focus their practice on the care of hospitalized patients.

To receive the designation, you must successfully complete the examination process and fulfill the educational requirements listed below. Re-examination is required every 10 years to continue designation. The examination is offered annually in the spring and fall.

Educational Requirements

- **ABFM Certified**
Current and Continuous Family Medicine Certification
- **Experience**
Complete the hospital medicine practice experience through the Direct Patient Care Pathway or the Clinical/Systems Pathway
- **Application**
Submit an online application with appropriate fee
- **Examination**
Achieve satisfactory score on the Hospital Medicine examination

Experience Requirements

To be eligible for this focused practice designation, you must show verification of at least three years of unsupervised hospital medicine practice experience in the United States or Canada that fully meets the requirements of one of the following qualifying pathways:

Direct Patient Care Pathway

The Direct Patient Care Pathway (i.e., full-time hospital practice): Completion of a minimum of 1,000 hospital patient encounters (limited to one encounter per patient per day) per year in the last three years, or 3,000 encounters in the last three years. Documentation of this is accomplished through submission of the Hospital Medicine Verification Form signed by Supervisor at hospital(s) to attest to patient encounters.

Clinical/Systems Pathway

The Clinical/Systems Pathway (i.e., full-time hospital medicine professional activity with part-time hospital practice): Completion of a minimum of 250 hospital patient encounters (limited to one encounter per patient per day) per year in the last 3 years, or 750 encounters in the last three years.

- These encounters must comprise of at least 75% of total clinical activity and
- At least 50% of the remaining non-clinical professional time must be directed toward improving the care of hospitalized patients



Support Center

For more information regarding CAQs, including exam application deadlines, examination content details, exam pass rates, and other CAQ information contact our Support Center.

PHONE: 877-223-7437

FAX: 859-335-7516

EMAIL: help@theabfm.org

LIVE CHAT: theabfm.org –
Locate live chat at top of page

HOURS: Monday–Friday: 8 AM – 9 PM (Eastern)
Saturday: 9 AM – 5 PM (Eastern)



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