American Board of Family Medicine

2027
Pain Medicine
Certificate of Added Qualification
Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM)
Examination Information Booklet

American Board of Family Medicine • 1648 McGrathiana Parkway, Suite. 550 • Lexington, Kentucky 40511-1247 • (877) 223-7437

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Important Dates for 2027 Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM)

October 16, 2026	Online Application Opens
November 16, 2026	Last day to submit online application without incurring a late fee ($100)
November 30, 2026	Last day to: • Submit application (with $100 late fee assessed) • Submit special testing accommodation (ADA) documentation
December 7, 2026	Last day to: • Clear all pending application requirements • Make official name change with ABFM for examination

Participation Schedule

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Quarter One	Mid-January – March 31	Mid-January – March 31	Mid-January – March 31	Mid-January – March 31	Mid-January – March 31
Quarter Two	April 1 – June 30	April 1 – June 30	April 1 – June 30	April 1 – June 30	April 1 – June 30
Quarter Three	July 1 – September 30	July 1 – September 30	July 1 – September 30	July 1 – September 30	July 1 – September 30
Quarter Four	October 1 – December 31	October 1 – December 31	October 1 – December 31	October 1 – December 31	October 1 – December 31

Fee Schedule for 2027 Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM)

Application Registration Period: October 16, 2026 – December 7, 2026

The examination and application fee details listed below summarize the payments for candidates applying for LA-PM. Payment details specific to your fees at the time of examination application can be accessed in your online application or in your MyABFM Portfolio. Note: To avoid a late registration fee ($100) be sure to begin the online application process and proceed beyond the fee payment page prior to November 16, 2026.

Candidate Type	Examination Fee
Process Fee Payment Plan*	Included in Payment Plan
First examination retake following an unsuccessful one-day examination	Included in Payment Plan
Re-attempting after > 2 unsuccessful one-day examination attempts	$650

*Continuing Certification candidates will be required to submit an annual process fee of $100 when completing the online application. **The process fee will be required on an annual basis going forward and required for maintaining certification.** As long as you are current with your process fees, you will have access to up to two (2) examination attempts. Should more than two (2) attempts become necessary, a fee of $650 (or 50% of the current full examination fee) will be required for each subsequent attempt.

Introduction

The American Board of Family Medicine congratulates you in your pursuit of continued board certification! We are excited to have you participate in the Pain Medicine CAQ Longitudinal Assessment. We have partnered with the American Board of Anesthesiology to make this exam option available through their longitudinal assessment solution called Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM).

This booklet provides general information concerning LA-PM and instructions for completing the online application.

We encourage you to review the entire booklet, but please be sure to read the Agreement section before beginning the application.

The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) has joined the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA), the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR), and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) in providing a multidisciplinary subspecialty certificate in Pain Medicine. The longitudinal assessment is designed to recognize excellence among physicians who are specialists in the diagnosis and treatment of the entire range of painful disorders.

Participation in certification is voluntary. Certification in Pain Medicine is not a requirement to provide care, and the Board's certificate does not confer privilege to practice.

All applications must be advanced beyond the fee payment page prior to the initial application filing deadline. Any pending requirements must be completed by the published deadlines.

We will notify you via email of application approval or of any pending requirements as you progress through the online application. Although reminders of pending requirements or any missing materials will be sent by email, you may review your online application at any time for status updates. We keep the applications open as long as possible, but there is a final deadline by which all applications must be completed. Any application that remains incomplete after the final deadline to clear pending requirements will automatically be withdrawn.

Benefits of Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM):

- it minimizes your time and expense spent in preparation for the examination and the inconvenience of the test center
- it can be completed when and where is best for you – increased flexibility and less stress than is often associated with the one-day examination
- it provides you with immediate feedback after each response, with a critique explaining reasons for the right or wrong answers
- references are provided with each item for further reading and learning
- learning is more continuous, allowing you to immediately apply information to your practice
- there is no additional cost – your certification fees remain the same as with the one-day examination

What is Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM)?

Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) is an examination designed to be more aligned with on-going changes in medicine and adult learning principles. Rather than taking a one-day examination at a proctored test center, you will receive up to 15 timed (1 minute), multiple-choice questions covering breadth of pain medicine topics each calendar quarter. The questions can be answered via computer or tablet anywhere and are completed over a five-year period.

If performance in your summative year is sufficient to reach the minimum passing standard, a new five-year cycle begins the following year and certification continues.

Who can participate in Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM)?

Beginning in 2024, all ABFM Diplomates holding a Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Pain Medicine were transitioned to longitudinal assessment. To remain certified, these Diplomates must meet the minimum passing standard in the year their examination requirement comes due.

In 2027, currently certified physicians whose last successful Pain Medicine one-day examination was in 2017, while already enrolled in LA-PM, are to complete the online application process with ABFM.

Physicians who successfully sat for the initial certification or continuing certification one-day Pain Medicine examination in 2026 are required to begin participating in longitudinal assessment in 2027. This group must also complete the online application process.

Physicians whose last successful examination was in 2016 – 2022 have been automatically enrolled in longitudinal assessment, but will not be required to complete an online application until the year their original 10-year examination requirement is due.

Who cannot participate in Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM)?

ABFM Diplomates pursuing initial Pain Medicine certification are not allowed to participate in longitudinal assessment.

ABFM Diplomates whose Pain Medicine certification has lapsed are not allowed to enroll in longitudinal assessment.

Physicians who are not certified in Family Medicine with ABFM are not allowed to enroll in longitudinal assessment through ABFM.

Purpose of the Examination Information Booklet

The purpose of this booklet is to provide all the necessary supporting details to complete the application process and participate in longitudinal assessment. It is organized into five sections: Introduction, Participation Requirements, Completing the Application, Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) Information, and Agreement.

We encourage you to review the entire booklet, especially the Agreement section before beginning the application.

We use the application process to review your requirements to participate in longitudinal assessment as well as provide you with all the necessary information for participation. Parts of the application that are incomplete or need to be reviewed by ABFM will be marked as pending requirements in the application process until completed.

Any pending requirements must be completed by the published deadlines. We will notify you via email of application approval or of any pending requirements as you progress through the online application. Although reminders of pending requirements or any missing materials will be sent by email, you may review your online application at any time for status updates. We keep the applications open as long as possible, but there is a final deadline by which all applications must be completed. Any application that remains incomplete after the final deadline to clear pending requirements will automatically be withdrawn.

If you have questions at any point during the application process, do not hesitate to contact us at (877) 223-7437 or help@theabfm.org. Our Support Center is available to assist Monday – Friday, 8am – 9pm and Saturdays, 9am – 5pm (Eastern Time).

Participation Requirements

Last successful examination was in 2014 - 2023

All ABFM Diplomates holding a Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Pain Medicine as of 2023 were transitioned to longitudinal assessment in 2024. Their performance in the year their original 10-year examination requirement comes due must meet the minimum passing standard in order to remain certified.

- Physicians whose last successful Pain Medicine one-day examination was in 2014 or 2015 were required to meet the minimum passing standard in 2025.
- Physicians whose last successful Pain Medicine one-day examination was in 2016 were required to meet the minimum passing standard in 2026.
- Physicians whose last successful Pain Medicine one-day examination was in 2017 are required to meet the minimum passing standard in 2027.

Last successful examination was in 2024 or after

Physicians who successfully sat for the initial certification or continuing certification one-day Pain Medicine examination in 2024 or after are required to begin participating in longitudinal assessment in the year following their successful one-day examination year. This group must meet the minimum passing standard in their fifth year of participation.

All participants must continuously maintain ABFM Family Medicine certification upon enrollment and throughout participation in the assessment. If for any reason primary certification in Family Medicine is not maintained (e.g., expiration, revocation, etc.), certification in Pain Medicine and participation in longitudinal assessment will simultaneously be withdrawn at the time of the loss of the primary certificate. Upon restoration of the Family Medicine certificate, a successful one-day, Pain Medicine examination is the only way to restore Pain Medicine certification.

Diplomates must submit CAQ process fees on an annual basis to maintain CAQ certification.

All participants must abide by the policies contained in the Agreement portion of this booklet. These policies provide guidelines for behaviors related to longitudinal assessment. Participants may not photograph, copy, print, screenshot, or otherwise reproduce the content presented in the assessment.

Completing the Application

The purpose of this section of the Examination Information Booklet is to provide essential information about the application process and the requirements candidates must meet prior to and/or while completing the application process.

It is the sole responsibility of an ABFM candidate to be aware of and comply with registration deadlines. In fairness to all candidates, ABFM adheres firmly to the published deadlines for registration and late registration for all applications. Candidates are encouraged to apply early in the registration period to avoid late fees or problems. Issues arising from a candidate's inability to logon to the ABFM application system (e.g., forgotten ID/Password, computer technical difficulties, or operator error) must be resolved and all components of the application completed prior to 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time on the deadline date. ABFM staff and Support Center make every effort to assist with these issues promptly; however, candidates are responsible for contacting ABFM for assistance well in advance of the deadline.

Password

The password provided to a candidate for accessing the MyABFM Portfolio is confidential. Candidates will be required to change the initial password they are assigned and are then strongly encouraged to use a password known only to them. There is a link in the MyABFM Portfolio that allows the candidate to change the password at any time. Anyone with access to a candidate's ID and password has access to all secure information pertaining to that candidate on our website. ABFM staff does not have access to candidate passwords. "Forgot Username" and "Forgot Password" buttons are available on the physician login page (https://portfolio.theabfm.org/ui/login) should you need assistance with your login credentials.

Personal Information

Candidates should confirm or update all personal information in the MyABFM Portfolio on the My Profile page. Fields that are not editable include name, ABFM ID number, degree, birthdate, and last four digits of the social security number. If any of this information is incorrect, the candidate must contact their ABFM Examination Program Coordinator to have it corrected.

ABFM requires candidates who have had a legal name change to submit a copy of the appropriate legal document (e.g., driver's license, marriage, divorce, etc.) in order to change our records. Please contact your ABFM Candidate Representative for assistance with any name issues.

Candidates also should verify, update, or enter their primary mailing address. This is the address the wall certificate will be mailed to, if a wall certificate with no end date has not already been previously issued. Address information may be updated through the MyABFM Portfolio at any time on the My Profile page in the "Account Information section.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

At the time of this publication (2026), European Union (EU) residents are not eligible to register for Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM). For further clarification, contact us at (877) 223-7437.

E-Mail

ABFM and ABA will correspond with examination candidates through email. Candidates should ensure that ABFM has a current email address on file. Email information may be updated through the MyABFM Portfolio at any time on the My Profile page in the "Account Information" section.

During the registration process, candidates are required to reply to an email confirmation, which verifies that the email address on file is accurate and the candidate is able to receive emails from ABFM. (Many email services do not notify senders that an email is received or rejected; as such, we may be unaware our communications are not reaching intended recipients.) Once the email confirmation is complete, candidates must return to the application and complete all remaining application pages.

All candidates are required to have a confirmed email address during the application process.

Fee Payment

Application Registration Period: October 16, 2026 – December 7, 2026

The examination and application fee details listed below summarize the payments for candidates applying for LA-PM. Payment details specific to your fees at the time of examination application can be accessed in your online application or in your MyABFM Portfolio. Note: To avoid a late registration fee ($100) be sure to begin the online application process and proceed beyond the fee payment page prior to November 16, 2026.

Candidate Type	Examination Fee
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*Continuing Certification candidates will be required to submit an annual process fee of $100 when completing the online application. **The process fee will be required on an annual basis going forward and required for maintaining certification.** As long as you are current with your process fees, you will have access to up to two (2) examination attempts. Should more than two (2) attempts become necessary, a fee of $650 (or 50% of the current full examination fee) will be required for each subsequent attempt.

Withdrawal Policy

Withdrawal Prior to Beginning Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) Participation

Any candidate who is unable to complete the application requirements by the published deadlines, is encouraged to withdraw. This is accomplished through the online application by selecting the Withdraw option. By selecting the withdraw option you will be cancelling your current application and the fees for that application may be applied to the next Pain Medicine examination application you initiate.

Withdrawal After Beginning Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) Participation

Once enrolled in longitudinal assessment, you will not have the ability to withdraw your participation inside ABA's exam delivery platform. If you wish to withdraw after your application has been approved, you would need to submit a written request to help@theabfm.org.

Withdrawals/removals that occur ***prior to*** **the end of the sixth quarter** of participation ***do not use up*** an examination attempt. Since two (2) examination attempts are available under the certification process fees, in most cases, two (2) examination attempts will still be available to use for the one-day examination.

Withdrawals/removals that occur ***after*** **the end of the sixth quarter** of participation ***will use up*** an examination attempt. Since two (2) examination attempts are available under the certification process fees, in most cases, one attempt will still be available to use for the one-day examination. If both available examination attempts included in the process fees have already been used, a reduced examination fee of $650 (or 50% of the current full examination fee) would be required to register for a one-day examination attempt.

Demographics

For more than 40 years ABFM has collected data on practice organization and scope of practice from candidates during the examination registration process. The information you provide enables ABFM to understand how family medicine is changing, such as scope of practice, geographical distribution, evolving

business models, size of practice, and whether your EMR is serving your needs. For years these data have guided the Board of Directors as they make decisions about how to help family physicians around the country improve the quality of care they provide to their patients. The accuracy of the information you provide is critical to how well ABFM can make certification more meaningful and useful to you.

Medical License

To participate in Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM), all Diplomates must continuously satisfy the Professionalism & Licensure component of family medicine certification through compliance with the ABFM Guidelines for Professionalism, Licensure, and Personal Conduct ("Guidelines"). The Guidelines establish ABFM's expectations regarding a general adherence to the standards of professionalism, which require maintaining record of all currently active, valid, and full medical license(s) held in the United States, its territories, or Canada (referred to as an "Unlimited License"), within the MyABFM Portfolio on the ABFM website. [Note: Those physicians who have self-designated as clinically inactive may be able to meet the license requirement by holding a qualified clinically inactive medical license as defined in the Guidelines.] Any period in which a Diplomate is not in compliance with the medical licensure requirement established by the Guidelines will result in a simultaneous break in certification.

ABFM receives most medical license information from the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) on a monthly basis. The details received for new or renewed licenses are presented to you in your MyABFM Portfolio to "Confirm" prior to officially accepting the data into our records. There may be circumstances in which your medical licensing board may not report licensure information to ABFM, or the details may not yet be received due to having recently obtained or renewed your medical license. In these situations, we rely on you to manually enter/update your medical license information to maintain an active record. It is up to you to ensure your medical license record on file remains up to date.

Institutional, temporary, and training medical licenses do not meet the criteria of an Unlimited license; therefore, these details should NEVER be entered in the MyABFM Portfolio. [Note: Even in scenarios where a candidate or Diplomate is enrolled in a fellowship program that only requires a training license for participation, training license details must never be submitted. The physician will have to obtain a medical license that meets the Professionalism & Licensure component of family medicine certification as identified above to be issued or maintain ABFM certification status.] Similarly, ABFM does not accept foreign medical licenses as meeting the Professionalism & Licensure component for certification. Physicians practicing outside of the country, for any period of time, will have to meet the requirement for licensure by maintaining an approved medical license in the United States, its territories, or Canada.

With every license entry or update, you are required to attest that the license information being submitted is accurate and that you are in full compliance with the Guidelines. If ABFM determines that a candidate has submitted an institutional, temporary, or training medical license, has entered inaccurate details that do not match the records from the licensing state, and/or has not reported a violation of the Guidelines, and has been granted certification under the false assumption that the Professionalism & Licensure component has been met, the certification will be invalidated. Falsification of any information entered into the application and/or the MyABFM Portfolio will be reviewed for potential violation of the Personal/Professional Conduct Policy of the Guidelines, which may result in the withdrawal of certification and eligibility for an extended period of time.

If there are any inaccurate or unapproved medical license details within your MyABFM Portfolio, you must report "Incorrect" information through the Medical License page of the MyABFM Portfolio or contact the ABFM Professionalism Department by email at license@theabfm.org.

It is your responsibility to inform ABFM in writing immediately following any conduct or action that may be determined to be in violation of the Guidelines. For questions about the Guidelines or to make a report, please contact professionalism@theabfm.org.

Any candidate participating in LA-PM who is in violation of the Guidelines will have their assessment invalidated and the fee will be forfeited. Eligibility for certification, which includes qualifying for any future exams, will not be reinstated until the physician is again in full compliance with the Guidelines.

If any action by a licensing authority is taken after this application is filed, but during LA-PM, it is still the responsibility of the applicant to report the action to ABFM. Physicians who have been notified of an adverse

decision relative to their eligibility or certification status and are appealing to the Professionalism Committee for reconsideration may be permitted to continue participation in LA-PM with the understanding that if the appeal is unsuccessful, their assessment will be invalidated, and the examination fee will be forfeited.

Special Testing Accommodations

ABFM provides reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act of 2013 (ADAAA) for individuals with documented disabilities who demonstrate a need for accommodation. In accordance with these Acts, ABFM does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities in providing access to Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM). Candidates must indicate through the application if special testing accommodations under the ADA are needed. Special testing accommodations will only be considered with appropriate documentation.

No candidate shall be offered an accommodation that compromises ABFM/ABA's ability to accurately test the skills and knowledge it purports to measure, and no auxiliary aid or service will be provided that will fundamentally alter the assessment or will result in an undue burden to ABFM/ABA. ABFM/ABA are only responsible for providing additional time accommodations per question during Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM). Since the assessment is offered in an environment and on a device of the candidate's choosing, any candidate who requires any auxiliary aid or service, outside of additional time per question, may procure them at their convenience for use during the assessment. For further information regarding Special Testing Accommodations, please refer to the ADA Policy and Procedures available on our website.

All required documentation to be approved for accommodations must be received by the final application deadline for staff to review and set the appropriate accommodations by the final deadline for clearing pending application requirements. After that date, requests with insufficient information, or incomplete for any reason, will not be processed and the candidate will be allowed to begin Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) under normal conditions or withdraw their application.

Once you begin participation in LA-PM, if ADA accommodations become necessary, you may submit a request to our Accommodations Coordinator at accommodations@theabfm.org for approval.

Agreement Page of Application

The agreement page of the online application asks candidates to attest to having read this Examination Information Booklet, including the full agreement located at the end of the booklet, and to agree to be bound by the conditions therein. Candidates also are confirming that all the information provided in the application is complete and true. The candidate's full name and ABFM ID number will be presented to identify that they are the person signing the agreement. Candidates are asked to electronically sign the agreement by clicking "Yes, I Agree" and by providing their date of birth and last four digits of their social security number.

Approval of Application and Getting Started

Once all components of the candidate's application are completed and all pending requirements are cleared, ABFM considers the candidate to be approved to participate in Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM). ABFM will then transmit eligibility data to ABA to establish the candidate as a participant in the assessment. ABA will then reach out with instructions for establishing login credentials on the LA-PM platform (aimeQED) and details about participation. Enrolled physicians may begin answering questions in mid-January. Participants will receive automated reminders from ABA at customizable intervals throughout the program

Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM) Information

Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM) Information

Facts About the Assessment

Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) is a cognitive assessment delivered via computer or device over a 5-year period. As a participant, you will receive up to 15 timed (1 minute), multiple-choice questions covering the breadth of pain medicine each calendar quarter.

Note that access to external reference materials of any kind is not allowed when answering LA-PM questions.

LA-PM replaces the one-day, computer-based, proctored examination for eligible physicians.

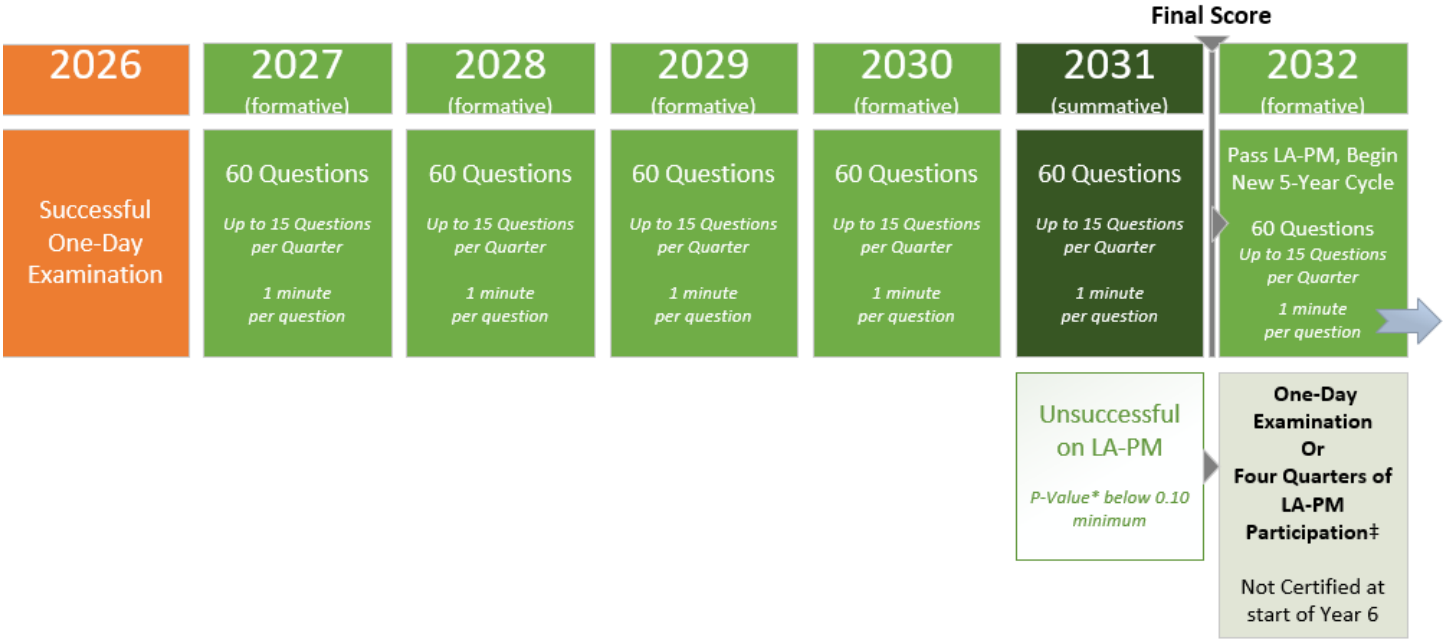
LA-PM is a test of the knowledge and clinical judgement in aspects of pain medicine required to demonstrate at a high level of competence.

Complete details regarding exam content may be accessed on the ABA website: https://theaba.org

Summative and Formative Participation Years

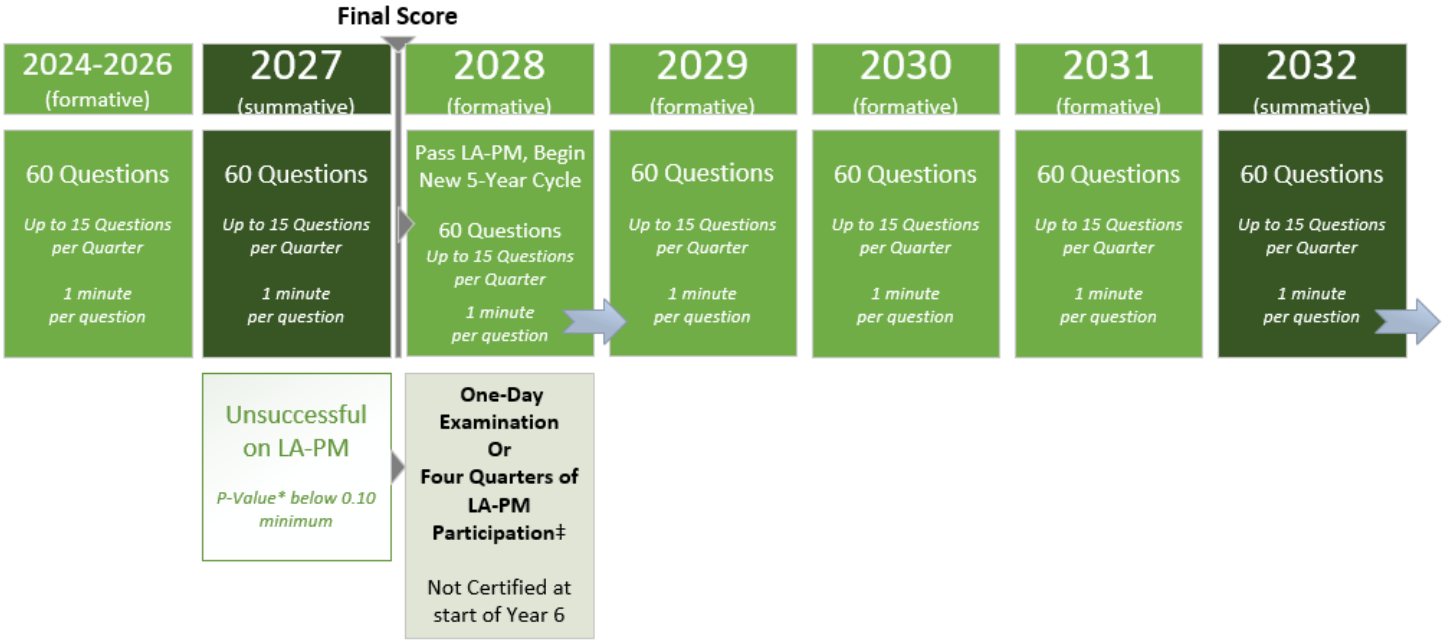
It is important for all physicians enrolled in Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine to understand the difference between summative and formative participation years. In formative years, the score you achieve by the end of the year, while helpful for assessing your knowledge, does not impact your certification status. In your summative year, the score you achieve by the end of the year will determine whether you remain certified in Pain Medicine. Note that the calculation of the score you receive in your summative year will only include the questions that were delivered in that year. ABA does a rolling calculation that only includes the last 60 available questions.

Timeline for a Successful 2026 One-Day Examinee



Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM) Information

Timeline for a Diplomates with Examination Due in 2027



If your performance assessment indicates that the minimum passing standard was met at the end of the summative year, then the examination requirement will be fulfilled, and certification will continue, and you will begin a new five-year cycle. If the minimum passing standard is not met in the summative year, you will no longer be certified in Pain Medicine at the start of the following year. Certification can be regained by 1.) taking and passing the one-day Pain Medicine examination or 2.) participating in Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) for another four (4) quarters and raising your performance enough to meet or exceed the minimum passing standard.

Participation Details

Getting Started. ABA automatically enrolls all Pain Medicine certified physicians in LA-PM. Physicians who have recently acquired their initial Pain Medicine certification will be contacted by ABA with instructions for establishing login credentials on the LA-PM platform and details about participation. While enrollment in the LA-PM platform is done automatically by ABA, ABFM also requires completion of an online application process in the MyABFM Portfolio for physicians whose 10-year examination requirement is due in the current year (2027) and for physicians who gained initial certification or regained an expired certification in the previous year (2026). Completion of ABFM's online application process provides a formal opportunity for LA-PM enrollees to acknowledge participation and be informed of important details about ABA's Pain Medicine Longitudinal Assessment before getting started.

Enrolled physicians may begin answering questions in mid-January. Participants will receive automated reminders from ABA at customizable intervals throughout the program.

Answering Questions. Up to 15 multiple-choice questions will be available to answer at the beginning of each quarter through ABA's delivery platform called aimeQED. Participants will have 1 minute to answer each question. The question set can be answered all at one time during the quarter or can be spread over multiple sessions within the quarter.

Questions that are viewed and answered will be counted correct or incorrect. Questions that are viewed but not answered will be counted incorrect.

Questions that are not viewed during a quarter will remain available to be answered throughout the calendar year they were originally released. These questions can be answered during other quarters within the year but

note that the maximum number of questions that can be answered on a single day is 15. Questions that are not viewed by December 31 of the year they were originally released will be counted incorrect.

Immediate Feedback. Once an answer is submitted for a question, you will receive an immediate response indicating whether the answer is correct or incorrect. A critique will be provided that explains the evidence for the correct answer and the reasons that the incorrect options were incorrect. You will also have an opportunity to provide feedback about the question that only ABA will see.

Suggestions for Participation. Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) replaces the need to sit for a one-day examination. However, we strongly encourage you to approach this assessment with the same level of focus and determination that you would give to the traditional examination. While we realize that sometimes factors beyond your control have the potential to disturb your assessment, here are a few key checkpoints that will help to minimize problems:

- **Device**: When answering questions, we suggest using a reliable laptop, desktop computer, or tablet that you are familiar with. While the questions will display on smart phones and other devices with internet browsing capability, your best option will be a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet.
- **Software**: The question delivery platform will be viewable through an ABA website, so you will be using an internet browsing program (Edge, Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.) to access the assessment. Be sure to have the most updated version of your web browser.
- **Internet Connection**: Be sure that you have a secure, stable, and reliable connection to the internet before you begin a question. A wired connection at your home or office will provide the best connectivity. A wi-fi connected computer or tablet with strong signal is your second-best option. We advise against the use of cellular networks as they can be less reliable.
- **Environment**: Create an environment conducive to taking an examination when answering questions. Remember that you will have a limited window of time to answer each question, so you want to eliminate as many potential distractions as possible. A few factors to consider: people, pets, electronic devices, telephones, time sensitive tasks, extreme weather conditions (power/internet outages), and your own health/safety. If you have printed or electronic resources you plan to use, make them accessible to yourself before you begin answering questions.
- **Support**: If you encounter issues at any time while participating in this assessment, contact ABA right away at 866-999-7501 or coms@theaba.org. ABA office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm (Eastern).

Assessment Administration Protocols and Procedures

Participants ***MAY NOT*** use printed or electronic resources (internet, resource materials, etc.) as they would in their normal day-to-day practice when answering questions. Sharing question content in any form is also strictly prohibited.

Sole Participation

The participant in Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) is the sole individual permitted to complete the online application process and participate in the assessment. Allowing another individual to participate on your behalf is strictly prohibited.

Behavior

All participants must abide by the policies contained in the Agreement portion of this booklet. These policies provide guidelines for behaviors related to Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM).

Content Security

Participants are prohibited from photographing, copying, printing, capturing screenshots, or otherwise reproducing assessment content in any way.

Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM) Information

Participants are prohibited from communicating with others about the content of Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM). Content includes questions, answer choices, critiques and references. Prohibited communication includes, but is not limited to:

- Seeking or receiving assistance in answering questions
- Providing assistance to other participants in answering questions
- Reconstructing content (in whole or in part)
- Discussing content with other individuals or groups
- Sharing electronic reproductions of content of any kind in any medium
- Sharing written reproductions of content of any kind in any medium
- Entering full question content into AI tools and services

Guideline for Technical Issues

If an assessment is interrupted due to external causes or technological problems not controlled by the participant, ABA should be contacted immediately for assistance.

Post Assessment Issues

Statistical Analysis of Performance. Statistical evidence of suspicious results includes, but is not limited to, a grossly significant statistical improvement from one assessment to another, a response pattern of incorrect answers significantly similar to another participant, or such evidence that would strongly suggest that the content of the assessment has been exposed prior to or during the assessment. ABFM/ABA has the option to nullify results without refund if these kinds of results are detected using procedures generally accepted among the psychometric community for detecting such results. A cutoff of sixty (60) days following results has been established by ABFM for follow-up with the candidate, review of statistical data, and examination of response data.

Consequences of Violations

Following the observation of and the action taken for an irregularity, ABFM staff will review and analyze all information at their disposal to confirm the occurrence of a violation. Exam results information will not be released while an irregularity is under investigation. If ABFM determines in its sole discretion that a violation of testing policy has occurred, the candidate will be notified. The candidate will be advised that the sanction for such a violation is ineligibility for up to six (6) continuous years from the date of the violation. The physician will be informed also that they may request reconsideration of the action by the Professionalism Committee of the ABFM.

Assessment Results

Immediate Feedback. Once an answer is submitted for a question, you will receive an immediate response indicating whether the answer is correct or incorrect. A critique will be provided that explains the evidence for the correct answer and the reasons that the incorrect options were incorrect. You will also have an opportunity to provide feedback about the question that only ABA will see.

Ongoing Feedback. ABA uses a calculation called “p-value” to evaluate your performance in Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM). P-value is the probability, based on exam performance, that the minimum level of knowledge has been maintained. A p-value of 0.10 is considered the minimum passing standard.

Final Score. At the end of the summative year, your final p-value will be calculated to determine if you met the minimum passing standard. ABA uses a method called Measurement Decision Theory (MDT) to create an estimated probability (p-value) that your Pain Medicine knowledge has remained up to date. This calculation looks at performance on the 60 questions that were made available during the summative year only. A summative decision will then be made regarding your assessment based on your final p-value calculation.

Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM) Information

Certification Points

Candidates who are successful on a CAQ longitudinal assessment and subsequently maintain CAQ certification will be awarded 10 certification points. These points are awarded in a lump sum at the conclusion of the process and are not accrued incrementally during the assessment. Points will be applied toward the minimum certification point requirement in the current stage/cycle for continuing Family Medicine certification. It is important to note that the 10 certification points will not fulfill the minimum Self-Assessment activity requirement or result in CME credits.

Re-Examination

Participants whose performance falls below the minimum passing standard after completing Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) will no longer be certified in Pain Medicine at the conclusion of the summative year. Certification can be regained by 1.) taking and passing the one-day Pain Medicine examination or 2.) participating in LA-PM for another four (4) quarters and raising your performance enough to meet or exceed the minimum passing standard.

Attempts at the one-day exam or another four (4) quarters of LA-PM following an unsuccessful LA-PM result will require completion of the online application process. If a second examination attempt provided under the certification process fees is available, the one-day examination attempt will require no additional fee. If the second exam attempt was previously used, then a reduced fee of 50% of the current full examination fee will be required. A successful one-day examination attempt or four (4) quarters of LA-PM participation in the year following the unsuccessful LA-PM attempt will satisfy the examination requirement and re-establish Pain Medicine certification.

Period of Certification

Once you have enrolled as a participant in Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM), you are considered continuously certified in Pain Medicine without an end date. As long as you remain enrolled in LA-PM, maintain your annual process fees, and maintain your ABFM Family Medicine certification, you will continue to be certified in Pain Medicine. Please note that if a wall certificate with no end date has been previously issued, no additional wall certificate will be issued upon enrollment in LA-PM or passing subsequent examinations.

To maintain a CAQ certification, all candidates must maintain ABFM Family Medicine certification and submit annual CAQ process fees.

If for any reason primary certification in Family Medicine is not maintained (e.g., expiration, revocation, etc.), CAQ certification will simultaneously be withdrawn at the time of the loss of the primary certificate.

If process fees are not submitted on an annual basis, CAQ certification will be withdrawn.

Upon completion of LA-PM with a successful final score, you will be expected to re-enroll for a new five-year cycle of assessment the following year.

Upon completion of LA-PM with an unsuccessful final score, you will need to take and pass the one-day Pain Medicine examination or successfully participate in LA-PM for four (4) quarters to regain certification. Physicians who are not successful in LA-PM are not allowed to re-enroll in another five-year cycle of LA-PM until they regain certification using one of aforementioned options.

Continuous Certification Process Requirements

All participants will need to submit annual CAQ process fees and continue completing Family Medicine Continuous Certification Process requirements to remain enrolled in Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM). Note that continued certification is still contingent upon meeting the current and continuous requirements for Family Medicine Certification.

Should a Diplomate not submit annual CAQ process fees and/or not complete the requirements for Family Medicine Certification during the established time frames, they will be removed from LA-PM and they will lose their certification status. Physicians who are removed from LA-PM may only regain CAQ certification by taking and passing the one-day examination.

Longitudinal Assessment – Pain Medicine (LA-PM) Information

Family Medicine Certification requirements are expected to alter over time and continued certification will be dependent upon adherence to the then current policies and procedures. It will be the Diplomate's obligation to become and remain familiar with the Family Medicine Certification program rules.

Revocation

Each certificate issued by the Board of Directors of American Board of Family Medicine shall be subject to revocation in any of the following circumstances:

General

The issuance of such certificate or its receipt by the person so certified shall have been contrary to, or in violation of, any provision of the Articles of Incorporation of American Board of Family Medicine, Inc., or of the Bylaws of American Board of Family Medicine, Inc., as amended.

The person so certified shall not have been eligible to receive such certificate, irrespective of whether or not the facts constituting such ineligibility were known to, or could have been ascertained by, the Directors of ABFM or its representatives.

The person so certified shall have made a misstatement of fact in the application for such certificate or in any other statement or representation to ABFM or its representatives.

The person so certified shall at any time have neglected to maintain the degree of competency in the field of family medicine established by ABFM.

The person so certified has fraudulently altered, copied, or changed a certificate of the American Board of Family Medicine, or has fraudulently presented, or allowed to be presented on behalf of the individual, an altered, copied, or changed certificate of the Board, or has otherwise misrepresented the person's certification status. In such cases, and in cases where the offending party is not currently certified, the Board reserves the right to revoke and/or prohibit participation in the Family/Pain Medicine Certification processes and subsequent certification of the offending party for a period of up to six (6) years from the date of discovery of the offense in accordance with the ABFM Guidelines for Professionalism, Licensure, and Personal Conduct. In the event the individual timely appeals the action to the ABFM Professionalism Committee, the period during which the candidate is barred from participation in Family/Pain Medicine Certification shall be tolled until the action of the Board is determined to be final.

Professionalism, Licensure, and Personal Conduct

All Diplomates or candidates of the American Board of Family Medicine shall be required to be in continuous compliance with the ABFM Guidelines for Professionalism, Licensure, and Personal Conduct ("Guidelines). The Guidelines establish ABFM's framework for assessing whether the family physician has satisfied the responsibilities of professionalism necessary to seek or maintain Diplomate status, which includes providing safe care, demonstrating honest, ethical, and trustworthy behavior, and practicing at the level expected of a board-certified family physician. Failure to comply with the Guidelines will result in loss of Diplomate status and/or loss of the ability to apply for, maintain, or regain Family Medicine Certification or other certificates offered by the Board.

It is the responsibility of all Diplomates and candidates of the American Board of Family Medicine to immediately inform ABFM in writing following any conduct or action that may be determined to be in violation of the Guidelines. In the event a Diplomate is no longer in compliance with the Guidelines, the physician must immediately cease self-identifying in any way, directly or indirectly, as a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine. Candidates for the Family Medicine Certification Examination and Diplomates of ABFM should be aware that ABFM receives reports from the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and other sources regarding adverse actions by governing bodies with control over the credentialing or privileging of aspects of a physician's practice of medicine. For questions regarding compliance with the Guidelines or to make a report, please contact professionalism@theabfm.org.

Any candidate who is in violation of the Guidelines during LA-PM enrollment or participation will have their examination invalidated, and the examination fee will be forfeited. Eligibility for certification, which includes qualifying for any future exams, will not be reinstated until the physician is in full compliance with the Guidelines. Physicians who have been notified of an adverse decision relative to their eligibility or certification status and

are appealing to the Professionalism Committee for reconsideration may be permitted to continue LA-PM participation with the understanding that if the appeal is unsuccessful, their examination will be invalidated and the examination fee will be forfeited.

Authority

The Board of Directors of American Board of Family Medicine shall have sole power and authority to determine whether or not the evidence or information before it is sufficient to constitute grounds for revocation of any certificate issued by ABFM. The decision of the Board of Directors in all such matters shall be final.

Agreement

ABFM strongly supports our Diplomates' interests in maintaining the value of Board Certification through a variety of security measures, and especially through reliance on Diplomates' sense of Professionalism and Integrity. The following agreement outlines the conditions regarding the administration of Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine ("LA-PM"). You will need to verify on the application that you have read and understand this Agreement. Your application will not be processed without this acknowledgement.

I certify that all the information in my examination application ("Application") is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. In order to be granted continued certification, I understand I must continuously abide by the ABFM Guidelines for Professionalism, Licensure and Personal Conduct (the "Guidelines") in all respects which includes, but is not limited to, obtaining and maintaining medical licensure which meets the requirements of the Guidelines and meeting the expectations for professionalism and personal conduct set by the ABFM. Furthermore, I understand that the assessment for which I am applying is voluntary on my part and I voluntarily accept and agree without reservation to the conditions set forth in the Application and this Examination Information Booklet. I understand that in making this Application I am voluntarily requesting that ABFM review and assess my professional standing and that the decision of ABFM in making such review and assessment shall be final.

I understand that in the event I am successful in LA-PM and Guidelines meet all requirements to gain certification, my Diplomate status will remain in effect as long as I meet all of the current and future Pain Medicine Certification requirements by the established deadlines and remain in continuous compliance with the Guidelines. Furthermore, should I withdraw from LA-PM for any reason after paying the required fee, the policy set forth in the current Examination Information Booklet for LA-PM shall apply.

If my Application to participate in Longitudinal Assessment - Pain Medicine (LA-PM) is approved, I understand and agree to the following conditions:

1. I understand that I must complete a registration process through ABA to be fully registered for LA-PM.
2. All the assessment questions and all other assessment content and materials are the sole property of ABA subject to copyright and intellectual property protections afforded by law.
3. I understand that while actively viewing assessment questions and related information, I am NOT permitted to use written (printed or electronic) resources as I would in my normal day-to-day practice.
4. I understand that I am prohibited from seeking or receiving assistance from other people in responding to assessment questions.
5. I understand that I am prohibited from helping other participants in responding to assessment questions.
6. I understand that I may not discuss the assessment with anyone.
7. With respect to all content related to LA-PM, including questions, answer choices, rationales and references, I understand that I am prohibited from reconstructing content (in whole or in part), discussing content with other individuals or groups, sharing electronic reproductions of content of any kind in any medium, sharing written reproductions of content of any kind in any medium.
8. I understand that the outcome of my performance during my summative year of this assessment will determine whether I remain continuously certified beyond my summative year.
9. I understand that I must follow the terms of participation provided by ABA during LA-PM, otherwise I risk being removed from the assessment.
10. ABFM/ABA is authorized by me to take all action they deem necessary and proper to administer the assessment securely, fairly, and efficiently.

11. In addition, should I do anything prohibited by ABFM/ABA, or should I be in violation of ABFM/ABA policy set forth within this agreement and Examination Information Booklet, my assessment scores will be invalidated.

12. I also agree to report to ABFM/ABA any examples I learn about in which questions or answers from LA-PM questions and answers are shared in any form, and that failure to report such examples, will be reviewed as a violation of the ABFM Guidelines.

13. ABFM reserves the right to refuse participation to any physician after assessment has begun.

14. I understand that violation of this agreement will be addressed under the ABFM Guidelines which could result in loss of ABFM Board Certification.

I further understand and agree that ABFM may withhold or rescind approval of this Application, and in the event I continue certification as a Diplomate of ABFM, such certification may be revoked and my name deleted from the roll of ABFM Diplomates by order of the Board should it determine, in its absolute discretion, that:

1. Any of the information in this Application is false or contains material misrepresentations or omissions;

2. I am not in compliance with the ABFM Guidelines;

3. I fail to satisfy the criteria for certification.

I agree that ABFM may, at its discretion, release information contained in this Application, my assessment results and/or my assessment scores to researchers selected by ABFM to study the testing and evaluation programs of ABFM under appropriate conditions of confidentiality established by ABFM. Aside from research purposes, I understand that my individual and identifiable assessment results and scores will be considered by ABFM to be confidential, and, unless authorized by me, will not be released to others except pursuant to legal process.

I agree to release and to hold ABFM/ABA, its physicians, examiners, employees, officers, directors, and agents free from any complaints, claims or demands for damage or otherwise by reason of any act of omission or commission that they, or any of them, may take in connection with this Application, assessment administration, the grade or grades given with respect to my assessment, the failure of ABFM to issue me such certificate, the subsequent revocation of any certificate issued to me by ABFM, or my continued eligibility for Pain Medicine Certification. I agree that ABFM retains the right to deny, revoke, or withdraw certification because of my failure to gain or remain eligible under periodically established ABFM policies.

I shall indemnify and hold harmless ABFM/ABA, its physicians, examiners, employees, officers, directors, and agents from any claims or liabilities, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs arising from my breach of this Agreement.

I hereby understand and agree that in the event I am certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine, that certification shall continue only for so long as I continue to meet all the current and future Family Medicine and Pain Medicine Certification requirements and continue to be in compliance with the Guidelines for Professionalism, Licensure, and Personal Conduct ("Guidelines"). I further understand and agree that in the event I am no longer in compliance with the Guidelines for any reason or any term, I shall advise ABFM in writing at professionalism@theabfm.org and immediately cease identifying myself in any way directly or indirectly as a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine.

I understand and agree that the decision as to whether my assessment qualifies me for a certificate or whether I continue to meet the conditions of eligibility for Pain Medicine Certification rests solely and exclusively with ABFM and that its decision is final.

Arbitration of Disputes

I agree that any case, controversy, or dispute which may arise between myself and ABFM in connection with the application process, assessment and/or my continued eligibility for Pain Medicine Certification shall be settled and resolved by binding arbitration under the then prevailing rules of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"). The arbitration dispute must be filed in Lexington, Kentucky. The decision of the arbitrators shall be final and binding, and judgment may be entered on the award of the arbitrators and enforced in any court of competent jurisdiction. Notwithstanding the foregoing, ABFM may seek injunctive relief in any court of

competent jurisdiction as ABFM determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, to be necessary or appropriate to protect the integrity and/or content of any assessment.

Governing Law

I agree that any case, controversy, or dispute which may arise between myself and ABFM in connection with the application process, the assessment, or my continued eligibility for Pain Medicine Certification shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, without regard to the choice of law rules of such jurisdiction. I hereby submit and irrevocably consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the state and federal courts located in Lexington, Kentucky for purposes of any legal action that may arise in connection with the application process, the assessment, and/or my continued eligibility for Family Medicine Certification.

By my acknowledgment on the online Application Form, I intend to be legally bound by the foregoing.