



Proposed BOS Policies – For Open Comment

March 11, 2020

Pathways for Initial Certification (not previously certified by AOA or ABMS):

A. Candidates have the choice of two (2) initial certification pathways:

Pathway 1: AOA Board Certification in (SPECIALTY NAME)

Eligible to become certified in your specialty including in Osteopathic Philosophy¹

- *Note: Including “AOA” in the name of the pathway should already imply inclusion of OPP, such that it does not/should not need to be called out separately.*

Pathway 2: AOA Board Certification in (SPECIALTY NAME) with Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (Including practical)

Eligible to become certified in your specialty including Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM)²

- *Note: Proposed plan is to have OMM written questions stand alone on the AOA’s Learning Management System (LMS). This will allow for standardization without the unnecessary publishing fees and allow for stability in our publication efforts from a staff resource perspective. Therefore, the written exam amongst both pathways would remain the same; however, those pursuing this pathway would also participate in the OMM-specific module by way of the AOA’s LMS.*
- *Those candidates pursuing the second pathway must take the accompanying practical exam. This exam is a part of the pathway and not a stand-alone option.*

**A current AOA diplomate, or a diplomate transferring from ABMS, will have an opportunity to pursue either pathway as so outlined in the eligibility criteria.*

AACOM GLOSSARY:

¹**Osteopathic Philosophy:** *a concept of health care supported by expanding scientific knowledge that embraces the concept of the unity of the living organism’s structure (anatomy) and function (physiology). Osteopathic philosophy emphasizes the following principles: 1. The human being is a dynamic unit of function. 2. The body possesses self-regulatory mechanisms that are self-healing in nature. 3. Structure and function are interrelated at all levels. 4. Rational treatment is based on these principles.*

²**Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM):** *The application of osteopathic philosophy, structural diagnosis and use of OMT in the diagnosis and management of the patient.*

Eligibility Criteria

- a. Physicians who are trained in an osteopathic medical school and an ACGME accredited program with osteopathic recognition are eligible for both Pathway 1 and Pathway 2.
- b. Physicians who are trained in an osteopathic medical school and an ACGME accredited program without osteopathic recognition are eligible for both Pathway 1 and Pathway 2.
- c. Physicians who are trained in an osteopathic medical school and an AOA accredited program are eligible for both Pathway 1 and Pathway 2.



- d. Physicians who have a doctor of medicine degree and have completed an ACGME accredited program with osteopathic recognition in an osteopathic designated position are eligible for both Pathway 1 and Pathway 2.
- e. Physicians who have a doctor of medicine degree and have completed an ACGME accredited program without osteopathic recognition are eligible for only Pathway 1.
- f. Physicians who have a doctor of medicine degree and have completed an ACGME accredited program without osteopathic recognition who have obtained specialty board and BOS-approved training in OMT may apply to the certifying board for approval to enter Pathway 1 and Pathway 2.

Entry into Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) by Physicians with Certification from an ABMS Board[±]

DO and MD physicians holding a current, valid certification from an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member board are eligible for AOA board certification and to enter the AOA Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) process in the specialty for which they have ABMS certification. For all applicable primary and subspecialty certifications for which the AOA offers certification eligibility criteria are as follows:

Eligibility Criteria for Entering Traditional, High-Stakes OCC

Primary Specialty Certification

DO and MD physicians holding a current ABMS board certification are eligible for AOA board certification and will be granted reciprocity of their certification upon fulfilling the following criteria:

- Current, valid licensure in one of the U.S. states or territories, the District of Columbia, or Canada.
- Completion of an ACGME-accredited residency, fellowship in the specialty or subspecialty of certification, or completion of an approved clinical pathway to certification.
- Current, valid, verifiable board certification through an ABMS member board in a specialty or subspecialty for which there is an equivalent AOA certification with an active OCC process.
- Submitting a completed application with all relevant materials and the required processing fee.



Subspecialty certification

DO and MD physicians holding a current ABMS subspecialty certification are eligible for AOA subspecialty board certification upon fulfilling the following criteria:*

- Subspecialties that currently require active AOA primary certification (*See Appendix A for full list*):
 - Physicians who do not already hold an active AOA certification in the required primary specialty must obtain an active AOA certification in the primary specialty as noted above, before applying for entry into the OCC process.
 - Example: A physician must hold active AOA Psychiatry certification to apply to AOA subspecialty certification for Geriatric Psychiatry.
 - If the ABMS board does not require primary certification to maintain certification in the subspecialty, but the AOA does require primary certification in order to maintain subspecialty certification, the physician will still be required to hold active AOA certification in the primary specialty. The same process as previously described will apply.
 - Example: A physician with current subspecialty certification in Sports Medicine through the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) must still obtain a primary certification through AOA Board of Internal Medicine (AOBIM) prior to entry into AOBIM's OCC process.
- Subspecialties that do not require active AOA primary certification (*See Appendix B for full list*):
 - Physicians may apply for AOA subspecialty certification without holding active AOA primary certification.
 - Example: A physician may become AOA board certified in Gastroenterology without holding active AOA primary certification.

± The procedures detailed above will supersede the process as detailed in Resolution 56 (*Res.No. B 56-A/04*) that allowed ABMS-certified physicians the opportunity to apply for eligibility for AOA certification.



Appendix A:

Subspecialties That Require Active AOA Primary Certification

Primary Certification is required for maintenance of the following subspecialties:

Anesthesiology

- Addiction Medicine
- Critical Care
- Pain Management
- Pediatric Anesthesiology

Dermatology

- Dermatopathology
- MOHS Micrographic Surgery
- Pediatric Dermatology

Emergency Medicine

- Addiction Medicine
- Emergency Medical Services
- Hospice & Palliative Medicine
- Medical Toxicology
- Sports Medicine
- Surgical Critical Care
- Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine

Family Practice

- Addiction Medicine
- Correctional Medicine
- Geriatric Medicine
- Hospice & Palliative Medicine
- Pain Medicine
- Sleep Medicine
- Sports Medicine
- Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine



Appendix A (cont):

Subspecialties That Require Active AOA Primary Certification

Internal Medicine

- Addiction Medicine
- Advance Heart Failure/Transplant Cardiology
- Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology
- Correctional Medicine
- Critical Care Medicine
- Geriatric Medicine
- Hospice & Palliative Medicine
- Interventional Cardiology
- Pain Medicine
- Sleep Medicine
- Sports Medicine
- Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine

Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine

- Addiction Medicine
- Pain Medicine
- Sports Medicine

Neurology & Psychiatry

- Addiction Medicine
- Geriatric Psychiatry
- Hospice & Palliative Medicine
- Neurophysiology
- Pain Medicine
- Sleep Medicine

Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology

- Otolaryngic Allergy
- Sleep Medicine

Orthopedic Surgery

- Hand Surgery
- Orthopedic Sports Medicine

Pathology

- Dermatopathology



Appendix A (cont):

Subspecialties That Require Active AOA Primary Certification

Pediatrics

- Sports Medicine

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

- Hospice & Palliative Medicine
- Pain Medicine
- Sports Medicine

Preventive Medicine

- Addiction Medicine
- Correctional Medicine
- Occupational Medicine
- Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine

Radiology

- Neurology
- Pediatric Radiology
- Vascular/Interventional Radiology

Surgery

- Addiction Medicine
- Surgical Critical Care



Appendix B:

Subspecialties That Do Not Require Active AOA Primary Certification

Primary Certification is not required for maintenance of the following subspecialties:

Internal Medicine

- Allergy & Immunology
- Cardiology
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- Hematology
- Infectious Diseases
- Nephrology
- Oncology
- Pulmonary Diseases
- Rheumatology

Neurology & Psychiatry

- Child/Adolescent Neurology
- Child/Adolescent Psychiatry

Obstetrics & Gynecology

- Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Maternal & Fetal Medicine
- Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

Pathology

- Forensic Pathology

Pediatrics

- Allergy & Immunology
- Neonatology