

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF ANESTHESIOLOGY, INC.

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Board Certification in an Anesthesiology Subspecialty: Pain Medicine

Clinical competence in an anesthesiology subspecialty, as defined by The American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc. (ABA), is an initial step toward Board certification in an anesthesiology subspecialty.

Training in an anesthesiology subspecialty must follow completion of the continuum of education in anesthesiology unless the Credentials Committee of the ABA prospectively approves a different training sequence for the fellow.

The Maintenance of Certification process is intended to provide evidence that these characteristics are still present and that the diplomate has completed a program that includes ongoing self-assessment and lifelong learning, continual assessment of professional standing, periodic self-directed assessments of practice performance and quality improvement, and an examination of cognitive expertise.

Clinical Competence Committee Report

The Board requires every fellowship training program to electronically file an Evaluation of Clinical Competence in January and July on behalf of each fellow who has spent any portion of the prior six months in clinical anesthesia training in or under the sponsorship of the fellowship program and its affiliates. The ABA's report form must be completed by selecting either of two grades:

Satisfactory (S)	Consistently meets reasonable expectations.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Often falls short of reasonable expectations.
*Not Applicable (N/A)	Should be used to denote only those categories of core competencies not required during the fellow's current rotations.

Clinical competence evaluation categories include the following:

Essential Attributes:

1. Demonstrates high standards of ethical and moral behavior.
2. Demonstrates honesty, integrity, reliability, and responsibility.
3. Learns from experience; knows limits.
4. Reacts to stressful situations in an appropriate manner.
5. Has no documented current abuse of alcohol or illegal use of drugs.
6. Has no cognitive, physical, sensory or motor impairment that precludes acquiring and processing information in an independent and timely manner.
7. Demonstrates respect for the dignity of patients and colleagues, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

Patient Care:

1. Demonstrates patient care that is compassionate, appropriate and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.
2. Respects patient privacy.
3. Demonstrates appropriate concern for patients and a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities.
4. Is an advocate for quality care.

Medical Knowledge:

1. Possesses an appropriate fund of medical knowledge.
2. Is appropriately self-confident; recognizes gaps in knowledge and expertise.
3. Demonstrates medical knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and cognate sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Practice-Based Learning And Improvement:

1. Demonstrates learning and improvement that involves the investigation and evaluation of care for patients, the appraisal and assimilation of scientific evidence and improvements in patient care.
2. Is committed to practice-based learning and improvement.
3. Possesses business skills important for effective practice management.
4. Is complete, accurate and timely in record keeping.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills:

1. Demonstrates effective interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families and other healthcare professionals.
2. Is adaptable and flexible.
3. Is careful and thorough.

Professionalism:

1. Demonstrates a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities.
2. Adheres to ethical principles.
3. Demonstrates sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

Systems-Based Practice:

1. Demonstrates an understanding of the healthcare system and the ability to effectively call on system resources to provide optimal patient care.
2. Demonstrates an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care.

Intellectual Skills:

1. Demonstrates factual knowledge and understanding of pathophysiologic concepts.
2. Demonstrates ability to obtain clinical data by employing the history and physical examination and laboratory.
3. Demonstrates ability to appropriately use non-invasive and invasive monitoring techniques to identify pathophysiologic mechanisms and define effective therapy.
4. Synthesizes and organizes patient data.
5. Demonstrates clinical judgment in planning diagnostic and therapeutic strategy.

Motor and Technical Skills:

1. Ability to appropriately use technical skills in diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.
2. Completeness of management of acute, cancer and chronic pain.

Overall Clinical Competence:

The grade for Overall Clinical Competence can be satisfactory only if the grade for every Essential Attribute is satisfactory. A Board certified physician must be capable of performing independently the entire scope of anesthesiology subspecialty practice without accommodations or with reasonable accommodation.