

2025 Pain Medicine MOCA Minute High Priority Topics Report for Subspecialties

Listed below are the 10 most difficult pain medicine topics of 2025 based on the performance of diplomates maintaining a Pain Medicine certificate

Assessment of Pain

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
1	The PROMIS-10 Global Health Questionnaire is a patient-reported outcome tool that can be used to assess overall quality of life in persons after a health-related intervention.	X.B.1. Assessment of Pain	350-499	2

Treatment of Pain: Procedural Treatments

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
2	The most common adverse event reported after percutaneous radiofrequency rhizotomy of the trigeminal ganglion is diminished corneal reflex.	X.D.3. Interventional Pain Management Including Nerve Blocks and Lesioning	200-249	34
3	Deep brain stimulation may be a treatment option in refractory chronic cluster headaches.	X.D.4. Neuromodulation (Implanted Devices): Indications, Risks, Benefits, Complications	100-149	0

Treatment of Pain: Psychological, Physical, and Integrative Therapies

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
4	Decreased T2 signal on MRI within intervertebral disc has high sensitivity for detecting discogenic pain.	X.E.4. Work Rehabilitation	200-249	3

Clinical States: Acute Pain, Pain due to Trauma, Postoperative Pain

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
5	Musculoskeletal pain is the most common pain complaint in patients with spinal cord injury.	X.H.3. Development of Chronic Post-Surgical Pain or Post-Traumatic Pain	300-349	0

Clinical States: Musculoskeletal Pain

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
6	Acute brachial neuropathy is an uncommon cause of neck and shoulder pain accompanied by upper extremity neurological symptoms that may occur after a viral illness.	X.I.3. Musculoskeletal Pain	300-349	10
7	Rheumatoid arthritis is associated with an increased mortality from cardiovascular disease.	X.I.3. Musculoskeletal Pain	250-299	10

Headache and Orofacial Pain

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
8	Facial migraines usually manifest in the lower part of the face and are often linked to an older age of onset.	X.L.2. Orofacial Pain (e.g., Trigeminal Neuralgia, Post Herpetic Neuralgia, Atypical Facial Pain)	100-149	9

Special Cases

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
9	The Oucher scale is most appropriate for the assessment of pain in pediatric patients ages 3 and up.	X.N.1. Pain in Infants, Children, and Adolescents	200-249	3
10	Pelvic girdle pain is a common problem during pregnancy. The symptoms are typically nonspecific and can be distinguished by their presentation from other conditions such as pain due to sacroiliac dysfunction, lumbar herniated disc, or round ligament pain.	X.N.5. Chronic and Acute Pain in Pregnancy and Lactation	300-349	0