

APPLICANT HANDBOOK 2019

AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC SUBSPECIALTY PAIN MEDICINE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians
American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine
American Osteopathic Board of Neurology & Psychiatry
American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine
American Osteopathic Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Established 2012

Affiliated Organizations

American Osteopathic Association (AOA)

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What is the Pain Medicine Subspecialty Examination for Certification?

The Pain Medicine Examination process for a Subspecialty Certification is conjointly developed by five participating osteopathic specialty boards. The Pain Medicine Subspecialty Examination Committee has representation from each participating specialty board.

The purpose of the AOA Pain Medicine Subspecialty Examination is to protect the public by identifying board certified osteopathic physicians who have advanced knowledge, skills and abilities in pain medicine.

What are the eligibility guidelines for Pain Medicine Subspecialty Certification?

A. Prerequisites:

The requirements include approved training. Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- The applicant must hold primary certification awarded by the AOA upon the recommendation of a participating specialty board.
- The applicant must hold an active license to practice medicine in a state of the United States; applicants without an active license in any jurisdiction at the time of application will not be admitted to the examination.
- The applicant must be a current member in good standing in the American Osteopathic Association or the Canadian Osteopathic Association.
- The applicant must conform to the ethical and moral standards as set forth in the [Code of Ethics of the AOA](#).
- The applicant must satisfactorily complete a one (1) year AOA or ACGME accredited fellowship training in pain medicine evidenced by a copy of a pain medicine certificate and letter of recommendation from the program director. Eligibility for examination will have duration of six years from the date of completion of the fellowship training.
- CME guidelines if applicable.

When and where are the Pain Medicine Subspecialty Examinations offered?

Please refer to the website for details of when and where annual exams will take place.
<https://certification.osteopathic.org/pain-medicine/>

The Spring 2019 Pain Medicine exams will take place at the AOA headquarters in Chicago on Saturday, May 18.

How much does it cost to sit for the Pain Medicine Subspecialty Examinations and withdrawal fees?

The initial examination fee of \$1300 is required at the time of application. The OCC examination fee of \$400 is required at the time of application. Please see the website for information regarding deadlines and late fees. <https://certification.osteopathic.org/pain-medicine/>

All cancellations must be made in writing. Exam fees will be refunded if cancellation is received more than 30 days from the exam date and will be less a \$300 administrative fee (for initial examination) or a \$150 administrative fee (for OCC examination).

How do I register for the Pain Medicine Subspecialty Examinations?

To register for the Pain Medicine Subspecialty Certification or Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) Examination, visit the Pain Medicine website here:
<https://certification.osteopathic.org/pain-medicine/>

Be sure to include all requisite accompanying documentation as listed on the online website.

When must I register for the Pain Medicine Subspecialty Examinations?

Please apply online at <https://certification.osteopathic.org/pain-medicine/>

What is the format of the Pain Medicine Subspecialty Examinations?

The Pain Medicine Subspecialty Certification Examination is composed entirely of multiple-choice type questions. There will be a total of 225 questions on the specialists practicing in the field are expected to know. The examination will assess the candidate's knowledge and clinical judgment in aspects of pain medicine required to perform at a high level of competence.

A more detailed exam table of specification is available at the following link:

<http://www.aoepm.org/TOS%20-%20PAIN%20MEDICINE%20EXAMINATION%20QUESTION%20CATEGORIES.pdf>

The Pain Medicine Subspecialty Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) Examination will also be composed entirely of 100 multiple-choice type questions.

What happens if I fail the Pain Medicine Subspecialty examination?

The period of eligibility will follow the Policies and Procedures of the BOS. Candidates may reapply for the next scheduled examination upon submitting a letter of intent, updated application information and the examination fee of \$1300. The overall CME hours and those specifically in Pain Medicine that are required when you re-apply will be prorated based on the number of years post-fellowship training.

What happens after I pass the Pain Medicine Subspecialty examination?

Those who pass the examination will receive a Certificate in Pain Medicine by their primary specialty board. All certificates will be time-limited and will be valid for ten (10) years from the date of certification. The diplomate must maintain a valid certification certificate in their primary specialty in order for the certificate in Pain Medicine to remain valid. The Pain Medicine Subspecialty Certificate will become invalid the date that the diplomate's primary certificate becomes invalid. The Subspecialty Pain Medicine will be awarded after the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists gives final approval of the examination process for each candidate.

This approval process will take approximately three months following the notification of successful completion of the examination. The candidate will be responsible for the fee for printing of a duplicate certificate in which the certificate was mailed to an outdated address and notification of the new address was not supplied to their primary specialty board.

Any correspondence directed to members of the AOCPMEC or requests for more information about the material contained in this packet may be directed to:

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