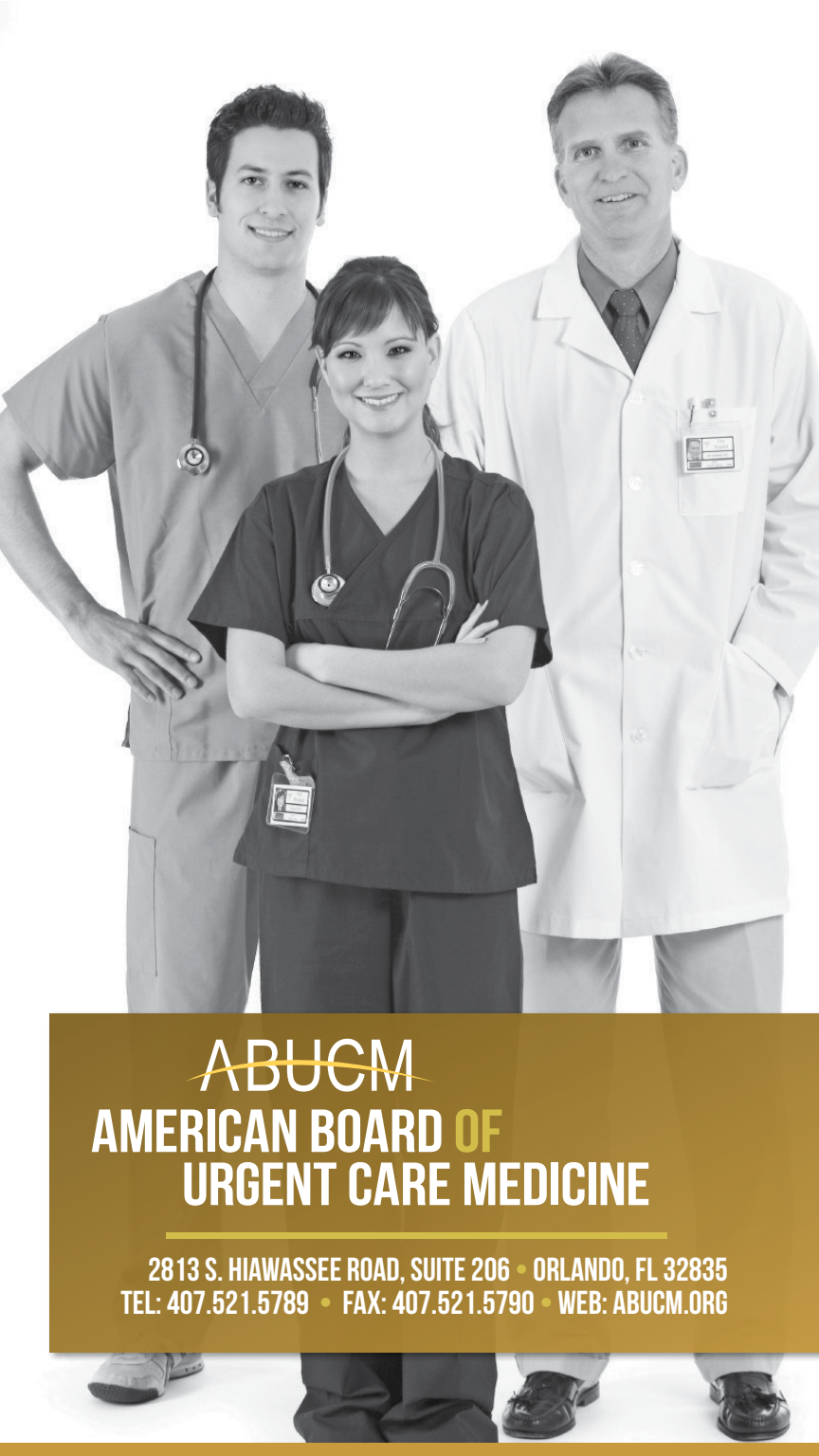


ABUCM
AMERICAN BOARD OF URGENT CARE MEDICINE

2813 S. HIAWASSEE ROAD, SUITE 206 • ORLANDO, FL 32835
TEL: 407.521.5789 • FAX: 407.521.5790 • WEB: ABUCM.ORG

ABUCM

INTRODUCTION

The American Board of Urgent Care Medicine (ABUCM) serves as an independent certifying body for Urgent Care Medicine. The ABUCM was established in 1997 to certify properly qualified candidates in the specialty of Urgent Care Medicine.

The goals of the ABUCM are to establish high standards of clinical competence, improve the quality of patient care, and to promote continuing education that is required for professional excellence. The ABUCM serves two interrelated functions: to certify properly qualified candidates in the specialty of Urgent Care Medicine, and to ensure recognition of the resulting board certification.

The ABUCM is committed to the certification of qualified Urgent Care physicians. Certification by the ABUCM recognizes excellence in the discipline of Urgent Care Medicine. The purpose of certification in Urgent Care Medicine is to define the domain of knowledge and clinical skills expected of the Urgent Care physician, to provide a valid assessment of knowledge demonstrated by the Urgent Care physician, to encourage continued professional development in the field of Urgent Care Medicine, and to serve the public by encouraging quality patient care.

Board Certification is not a requirement to practice Urgent Care Medicine. The Board does not intend to interfere with or to restrict the professional activities of a licensed physician who is not Board Certified, nor to restrict the professional activities of a Certified Diplomate. The ABUCM does not discriminate on any basis, to include discrimination in regards to sex, color, creed, religion, disability, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, or any other reason unrelated to character or competency.

The American Board of Urgent Care Medicine is a private, non-profit corporation. The Board receives no public funds and has no licensing function. The Board is self-funded from the fees paid by candidates. Any income that exceeds expenses is in invested in the continuing improvement of the certification and re-certification process.

THE BOARD CERTIFICATION EXAM

The foundation of the ABUCM examination is a practice analysis survey. The ABUCM reviewed the field of Urgent Care Medicine to define the role of the Urgent Care Medicine practitioner. Thousands of urgent are medicine physicians, representing all specialties of origin, were surveyed about their own practice, the types of patients they see and the type of procedures they provided. The examination was then designed to test the areas of knowledge determined to be essential for the current competent practice of Urgent Care Medicine across all clinical settings. The exam questions were developed by members of the Board and Diplomates of the American Board of Urgent Care Medicine under the direction of independent certification consultations and psychometrical evaluations which are intended to be medically and legally defensible.

The exam is an electronic exam comprised of 225 multiple-choice questions. It is broken down into seven general categories: General Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Pharmacology, Public Health, Risk Management and Occupational Medicine.

These categories are further broken down into the more specific areas of abdominal and gastrointestinal disorders, cardiovascular disorders, thoracic and respiratory disorders, traumatic disorders, pediatric disorders, toxicology and clinical pharmacology, obstetrical and gynecological disorders, procedures and skills of Urgent Care Medicine, musculoskeletal disorders, cutaneous disorders, systemic and cutaneous infectious disorders, endocrine, metabolic and nutritious disorders, head and neck disorder, hematology and oncology disorders, nervous system disorders, psychological and behavioral disorders, urological and renal disorders, environmental disorders, immune system disorders, epidemiology, and public health disorders.

The content of the examination is divided into more than a dozen main knowledge areas including: anatomy/physiology, medicine, surgery, pediatrics, dermatology, infectious disease, pain medicine, radiology, orthopedics, pharmacology, psychiatry, sports medicine, occupational medicine, and compensation/disability/medical-legal issues. These areas are further divided into a matrix of sections. The information from the practice analysis survey is then used to determine the number of items to include under each of the knowledge areas.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The eligibility requirements for board certification in Urgent Care Medicine have been developed based on a significant review and analysis of the current state of clinical knowledge in the field of Urgent Care Medicine as it is reflected in medical literature and the acute care setting. The ABUCM constantly monitors advances in the field of Urgent Care Medicine and makes revisions in the certification process accordingly.

In order to be eligible for certification through the American Board of Urgent Care Medicine, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Graduation from a medical or osteopathic school which is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) or graduation from a medical school or osteopathic school which is recognized by the World Health Organization.
- Completion of a residency which is accredited by the American College of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) or College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) in Emergency Medicine, Family Practice, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics or Occupational Medicine.**
- A current, unrestricted license to practice medicine in a state, district or territory of the United States and a current DEA certificate.
- Completion of 100 hours of Category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) averaged over the past two years.**
- Practice experience in Urgent Care Medicine for a minimum of five years/seven thousand (7,000) hours*.

*Practice experience in Urgent Care Medicine is defined as working in a facility which provides immediate medical service (no appointment necessary) offering outpatient evaluation and treatment for patients of all ages with a broad spectrum of acute, not immediately life-threatening injuries and illnesses. Urgent Care facilities include medical clinics that are free-standing or separate clinics within hospitals or larger multi-specialty practices, fast-track areas within an emergency department, and Family Practice clinics that also offer Urgent Care services.

Practice experience may include a combination of previous Emergency Medicine, Family Practice, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology , Pediatrics and/or Occupational Medicine practice and Urgent Care Medicine.

**For physicians who may not have completed an approved ACGME training program in a primary care specialty, the physician is required to:

- Have completed one (1) year in an ACGME-approved (or RCPSC-accredited or CFPC-accredited) residency program, **and**
- Have a minimum of six (6) years of practice in the specialty of Urgent Care Medicine **or** six (6) years of full-time teaching in a post-graduate training program accredited by the ACGME, **and**
- Have completed a minimum of 400 hours of Category 1 Continuing Medical Education in Urgent Care Medicine (completed over the previous six years).

Information submitted by the applicant is subject to verification. Submission of false or misleading information is grounds for exclusion from the certification process. By signing and having the application notarized, the applicant agrees to hold harmless the American Board of Urgent Care Medicine. Please refer to the Applicant's Sworn Statement on the Examination Applicant for complete agreement details.

APPLICATION

Physicians desiring to become board certified in Urgent Care Medicine must complete an application prior to examination. Whensubmitting application materials, the $1,025 examination fee must accompany the completed application.

To request an application, go to: http://abucm.org/exam-application.html. Or, to receive an application by mail, please send a written request to the Board along with the $130 application fee. Please send application requests and payments to:

American Board of Urgent Care Medicine
2813 S. Hiawassee Rd., Suite 206
Orlando, FL 32835-6690

**The $130 application fee is non-refundable.*

PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

Physicians desiring to become board certified in Urgent Care Medicine must complete an application prior to examination. When submitting application materials, the $995 examination fee must accompany the completed application.

To help you prepare for the Exam, the ABUCM has partnered with Exam Master® to develop a study and review program which is available through a custom online gateway. To get started on the Exam study course go to http://abucm.org/exam-review.html.

The following list of references may be helpful in reviewing for the exam. These publications are intended for use as study aids only. The American Board of Urgent Care Medicine does not intend to imply endorsement of any specific resources or texts, or any affiliation with publishers, authors or editors of said texts. The references listed may prove helpful in the review of the subject areas included on the exam.

Clinical Dermatology *by Thomas P. Habif, MD*

Clinical Procedures in Emergency Medicine
By James R. Roberts, MD and Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS

Procedures for Primary Care
By John Pfenninger, MD, FAAFP and Grant C Fowler, MD

Urgent Care Medicine
By Thom Mayer M.D. and Tanise Edwards M.D.

Emergency Medicine: A Comprehensive Study Guide
By Judith E. Tintinalli, M.D., Gabor D. Kelen, M.D. and J. Stephan Stapczynski, M.D.

Field Guide to Urgent and Ambulatory Care Procedures
By David M. James

Principles of Ambulatory Medicine
By L. Randol Barker, Nicholas H. Fiebach, David E. Kern, Patricia A. Thomas, et al.

Emergency Pediatrics: A Guide to Ambulatory Care
By Roger M. Barkin, M.D., MPH, FAAP, FACEP and Peter Rosen, M.D.

Fracture Management for Primary Care
By M. Patrice Eiff, M.D., Robert L. Hatch, M.D., MPH and Walter L. Calmbach, M.D.

Handbook of Urgent Care Medicine
By Michelle H. Biros, M.S., M.D., Steve Sterner, M.D. and E. Corradin Vogel, M.D.

Pediatric Signs & Symptoms
By Jonathan Teitelbaum, Kathleen Deantonis and Scott Kahan

Textbook of Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Edited by Gary R. Fleisher, Stephen Ludwig, Fred M. Henretig, Richard M. Ruddy and Benjamin K. Silverman

Practical Assessment and Treatment of the Patient with Headaches in the Emergency Department and Urgent Care Clinic
By Dawn A. Marcus & Philip A. Bain

***For each suggested text, look for the most recent edition.**

TAKING THE EXAM

To sit for the exam, candidates submit an application for consideration and review by the Board. Once accepted as an exam candidate, the Certification Coordinator will work with the examinee to select a testing facility and schedule an appointment to take the exam. The exam is offered during four exam windows throughout the year: March, June, September and December. There are thousands of testing centers throughout the United States and abroad. Prior to the candidate's exam appointment, the examinee will receive a confirmation email containing all pertinent testing facility information and the Candidate Authorization Code.

EXAM SCORING AND REPORTING

The exam is designed as a minimum professional competency test and is not intended to distinguish scores achieved above a passing point. Therefore, no numeric scores will be reported to any candidate. Candidates who successfully pass the exam will receive a certificate and will be allowed to designate themselves as a Diplomate of the American Board of Urgent Care Medicine.

Failing candidates will receive a report showing subject area weakness(es) within 60 days of the exam date. Candidates are permitted to repeat the examination twice during the next two administrations of the exam. If a candidate does not succeed in passing the exam after two attempts, he/she will be required to show proof of cause or seminars, taken to remedy deficiencies. An administrative fee of $250 must be submitted each time the examination is retaken.

APPEALS

Any failing candidate may appeal a decision of the American Board of Urgent Care Medicine by submitting a written notice of appeal to the Board within thirty (30) days from receiving a notice of his/her exam results. Appeals should be addressed to:

American Board of Urgent Care Medicine
2813 S. Hiawassee Rd., Suite 206
Orlando, FL 32835-6690

DEFERMENTS/RESCHEDULING

If a physician has been accepted as a candidate and has scheduled an exam appointment, but cannot take the examination, he/she may request a deferment to the next examination window without incurring a deferment penalty. Two reschedules of the exam appointment are permitted. There are no fees for the first reschedule. There is a $200 deferment fee for the second reschedule. No additional reschedules will be permitted. The candidate must contact the ABUCM Certification Coordinator no less than 72 hours prior to their exam appointment, otherwise a $200 last-minute rescheduling fee will be charged. If the candidate has scheduled an appointment to take the exam, and the ABUCM Certification Department receives no notification of deferment, the candidate will be considered a "No Show" and there will be no refund of the exam fee. The candidate's application will become invalid and the candidate will be required to re-apply to be considered to take the examination. All application and exam fees are retained by the ABUCM.

REFUND POLICY

If a physician makes application for the certification exam and is not approved, submits an incomplete application, or chooses not to sit for the exam after an application has been submitted, all application and exam fees will be retained by the ABUCM. If an application is submitted and approved, but the candidate does not schedule an exam appointment within 12 months of approval to take the exam, the application will be purged from the ABUCM Certification Department's files and all application and exam fees will be retained by the ABUCM.

CERTIFICATION MANAGEMENT FEE

The Certification Management Fee supports the ongoing development and maintenance of the ABUCM certification and recertification examinations, as well as helping to underwrite administrative functions including but not limited to the archival of Diplomate files, verification of Diplomate certification status to requesting agencies, maintenance of the ABUCM website and other clerical undertakings. The Certification Management Fee is a one-time charge that covers the full eight-year certification. ABUCM Diplomates are required to remit the Certification Management Fee after the first year of certification. The ABUCM will send an invoice to the Diplomate on the one-year anniversary of certification.

RECERTIFICATION

Recertification is essential to evaluate a Diplomate's continued proficiency in Urgent Care Medicine. The goal of such an evaluation is to improve the quality of patient care and to foster a continued commitment to professional excellence over a lifetime of practice. Recertification is required every eight years. The recertification process is internet-based, allowing you the opportunity to take the exam from any computer with internet access while also earning 15 CME credits! The recertification/CME exam requires three steps: taking the pre-test, reviewing the results in review mode, and taking the post-test. The ABUCM will notify the Diplomate approximately 90 days prior to his/her expiration with details and instructions for completing the recertification exam.

The provisions of this publication are not to be construed as a contract between any candidate and the American Board of Urgent Care Medicine.

The Board reserves the right to make changes to its fees, policies and procedures at any time. The Board cannot assume responsibility for giving advance notice thereof. The Board also reserves the right, under extraordinary circumstances, to waive certain portions of its requirements.

A penalty of $100 shall be imposed upon any person submitting a check payable to the American Board of Urgent Care Medicine for any fee for each such check returned by a banking institution for insufficient funds.

The information contained in this booklet is accurate as of the date of publication. Applicants are reminded that requirements, policies and fees may change and are encouraged to contact the American Board of Urgent Care Medicine.