



The American Board of Nuclear Medicine

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties



Credentialing

Frequently Asked Questions



Credentialing Issues

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1. When should I notify the ABNM about credentialing issues?

You should notify the ABNM about credentialing issues before you apply or at the time you are accepted into an accredited nuclear medicine training program. **Do not wait until you apply to take the ABNM certification examination.** It is unlikely that these issues can be resolved in time for you to complete your ABNM certification examination application

2. What is the procedure for having the ABNM accept my foreign clinical training as being equivalent to the required preparatory clinical year?

- A. To initiate the process, you must be interviewed by a program director of an accredited nuclear medicine residency program. A list of the accredited nuclear medicine programs in the United States is attached as appendix A (<http://www.acgme.org/adspublic/>) A list of Canadian Program is listed in Appendix B (http://rcpsc.medical.org/residency/accreditation/arps/nuclear_e.php). If the nuclear medicine program director is willing to support your request that the ABNM accept your prior training as being equivalent to the clinical preparatory year that is required prior to starting a nuclear medicine residency, the program director must fill out the evaluation form entitled "**Program Director's Assessment of Equivalency of Clinical Training**". This evaluation form must be mailed to the ABNM office with the program director's original signature.
- B. If a program director is willing to support your request, you must send a letter to the ABNM office asking the ABNM to accept your prior training as being equivalent to the clinical preparatory year that is required prior to starting a nuclear medicine residency. You must send a check made out to the ABNM in the amount of \$200 for the nonrefundable credentialing processing fee. Your request for a credentials review will not be processed without this fee.
- C. You must also get letters of recommendations from the program directors of all of your prior training programs.
- D. Please send a copy of a detailed curriculum vitae that documents how you spent all of your time since you graduated from medical school.
- E. If you have a license to practice medicine in another country, please send a copy with a certified translation (if necessary) to the ABNM.
- F. Please send a copy of your ECFMG certificate as well as your medical

exam scores (ECFMG, NMBE, COMLEX, MCC, FLEX and/or USMLE) to the ABNM office.

- G. The Board may also request additional information before it makes its decision.
- H. The ABNM information brochure describes the training requirements in more detail.

3. What is the procedure for having the ABNM accept my foreign nuclear medicine training as being equivalent to some of the required nuclear medicine training in an accredited program in the US or Canada?

- A. To initiate the process, you must be interviewed by a program director of an accredited nuclear medicine residency program. A list of the accredited nuclear medicine programs in the United States is attached as appendix A (<http://www.acgme.org/adspublic/>) A list of Canadian Program is listed in Appendix B (http://rcpsc.medical.org/residency/accreditation/arps/nuclear_e.php). If the nuclear medicine program director is willing to support your request that the ABNM accept your prior training as being equivalent to some of the required nuclear medicine training, the program director must fill out the evaluation form entitled **"Program Director's Assessment of Prior Nuclear Medicine Training"**. This evaluation form must be mailed to the ABNM office with the program director's original signature.
- B. If a program director is willing to support your request, you must send a letter to the ABNM office asking the ABNM to accept your prior nuclear medicine training as being equivalent to some of the required nuclear medicine training. You must send a check made out to the ABNM in the amount of \$200 for the nonrefundable credentialing processing fee. Your request for a credentials review will not be processed without this fee. You will still have to do a minimum of 12 months of nuclear medicine training in an accredited nuclear medicine program in the US or Canada.
- C. You must also get letters of recommendations from the program directors of all of your prior training programs.
- D. Please send a copy of a detailed curriculum vitae that documents how you spent all of your time since you graduated from medical school.
- E. If you have a license to practice medicine in another country, please send a copy with a certified translation (if necessary) to the ABNM.
- F. Please send a copy of your ECFMG certificate as well as your medical exam scores (ECFMG, NMBE, COMLEX, MCC, FLEX and/or USMLE) to the ABNM office.

- G. The Board may also request additional information before it makes its decision.
- H. The ABNM information brochure describes the training requirements in more detail.

4. I am a faculty member in an accredited nuclear medicine training program. What is the procedure for having the ABNM accept my foreign nuclear medicine training or my nuclear radiology training as being equivalent to the required nuclear medicine training in an accredited program in the US or Canada?


- A. Your nuclear medicine program director should send a letter to the ABNM indicating that you would like to have the ABNM review your credentials to take the ABNM certification examination. If you are the program director, the letter should come from you. The letter should include the following information.
 - 1. The starting date of your employment as a faculty member in an accredited nuclear medicine training program.
 - 2. The number of hours per week that you practice nuclear medicine. If the hours have changed over time, a year by year listing is required.
 - 3. The percentage of your time spent in general nuclear medicine, cardiovascular nuclear medicine, PET/CT and therapy.
 - 4. A listing of all the nuclear medicine reports that you sign in the last year. The listing should simply include the dates and type of study. These summary reports can usually be easily obtained from your local information system. Do not send full patient reports.
- B. The ABNM will require the equivalent of 3 years of full-time clinical nuclear medicine experience before it will accept your clinical experience as being equivalent to the required 3 years of nuclear medicine training. This clinical experience should be documented prospectively.
- C. Documentation that you are listed as an authorized user for 10CFR35.190, 290 and 390 uses.
- D. You must also get letters of recommendations from the program directors of all of your prior training programs.
- E. Please send a copy of a detailed curriculum vitae that documents how you spent all of your time since you graduated from medical school.


- F. If you have a license to practice medicine in another country, please send a copy with a certified translation (if necessary) to the ABNM.
 - G. Please send a copy of your ECFMG certificate as well as your medical exam scores (ECFMG, NBME, COMLEX, MCC, FLEX and/or USMLE) to the ABNM office.
 - H. The Board may also request additional information before it makes its decision.
 - I. The ABNM information brochure describes the training requirements in more detail.
5. **What is the procedure for having the ABNM accept my foreign radiology training as being equivalent to radiology training in an accredited program in the US or Canada?**

- A. To initiate the process, you must be interviewed by a program director of an accredited nuclear medicine residency program. A list of the accredited nuclear medicine programs in the United States is attached as appendix A (<http://www.acgme.org/adspublic/>) A list of Canadian Program is listed in Appendix B (http://rcpsc.medical.org/residency/accreditation/arps/nuclear_e.php).

If the nuclear medicine program director is willing to support your request that the ABNM accept your prior training as being equivalent to radiology training that you would receive in an accredited program in the US or Canada, the program director must fill out the evaluation form entitled **“Program Director’s Assessment of Prior Radiology Training”**. This evaluation form must be mailed to the ABNM office with the program director’s original signature.

- B. If a program director is willing to support your request, you must send a letter to the ABNM office asking the ABNM to accept your prior foreign radiology training as being equivalent to some of the required radiology training in nuclear medicine. You must send a check made out to the ABNM in the amount of \$200 for the nonrefundable credentialing processing fee. Your request for a credentials review will not be processed without this fee. You will still have to do a minimum of 12 months of nuclear medicine training in an accredited nuclear medicine program in the US or Canada. In addition you should have at least 4 months of equivalent nuclear medicine training as part of your foreign radiology training.
- C. You must also get letters of recommendations from the program directors of all of your prior training programs. Your radiology program director must also indicate how much nuclear medicine training, if any, you had as part of your radiology training. The areas in nuclear medicine (general nuclear medicine, cardiovascular nuclear medicine, PET, PET/CT, therapy) that you received training in must also be specified.

- D. Please send a copy of a detailed curriculum vitae that documents how you spent all of your time since you graduated from medical school.
 - E. If you have a license to practice medicine in another country, please send a copy with a certified translation (if necessary) to the ABNM.
 - F. Please send a copy of your ECFMG certificate as well as your medical exam scores (ECFMG, NBME, COMLEX, MCC, FLEX and/or USMLE) to the ABNM office.
 - G. The Board may also request additional information before it makes its decision.
 - H. The ABNM information brochure that the training requirements in more detail.
6. **What is the procedure for having the ABNM accept my non-standard nuclear medicine training as being equivalent to the required nuclear medicine training? Examples of non-standard nuclear medicine training include having your nuclear medicine training in different programs, starting and ending dates other than July 1st and June 30th respectively, having more than a 6 week leave of absence during a year, dedicated research time and combining nuclear medicine training with training in another specialty. Planned variations from the standard nuclear medicine training program must be approved by the ABNM prior to their implementation.**
- A. To initiate the process, you must write a letter to the ABNM indicating that you are requesting that the ABNM accept your non-standard nuclear medicine training as being equivalent to the required training.
 - B. You must have a program director of an accredited nuclear medicine residency program also write a letter indicating that he/she agrees that your nonstandard training was equivalent to the required training.
 - C. You must list your training and responsibilities on a rotation by rotation basis during the period of time that your nuclear medicine program director(s) states that you were enrolled in their training program(s).
 - D. You must document that you meet the new NRC training requirements particularly for therapy for (10 CFR 35.390).
 - E. You should be specific about what you are asking the credentials committee to approve. For example, credit for research done apart from your clinical nuclear medicine training.
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- F. You must also get letters of recommendations from the program directors of all of your prior training programs.
 - G. Please send a detailed curriculum vitae that documents how you spent all of your time since you graduated from medical school.
 - H. Please send a copy of all unrestricted licenses to practice medicine in the United States and Canada to the ABNM.
 - I. Please send a copy of your medical exam scores (ECFMG, NMBE, COMLEX, MCC, FLEX and/or USMLE) to the ABNM office.
 - J. You must send a check made out to the ABNM in the amount of \$200 for the nonrefundable credentialing processing fee. Your request for a credentials review will not be processed without this fee.
 - K. The Board may also request additional information before it makes its decision.
 - L. The ABNM information brochure describes the training requirements in more detail.
7. **What is the procedure for having the ABNM accept my foreign clinical training as being equivalent to completing training in an accredited clinical specialty?**
- A. To initiate the process, you must write a letter to the ABNM indicating that you are requesting that the ABNM accept your foreign clinical training as being equivalent to completing training in an accredited clinical specialty in the United States or Canada.
 - B. You must have a program director of an accredited nuclear medicine residency program also write a letter indicating that he/she agrees that your foreign clinical training as being equivalent to completing training in an accredited clinical specialty.
 - C. You must also get letters of recommendations from the program directors of all of your prior training programs. The letter should include information such as:
 - 1. The duration of your training
 - 2. Whether you satisfactorily completed your training
 - 3. Whether board certification exists in the country that you received your training. If yes, the name of the board and whether you are board certified.
 - 4. A summary of the training requirements in the country where you received your training.
 - D. Please send a detailed curriculum vitae that documents how you spent all of your time since you graduated from medical school.
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- E. If you have a license to practice medicine in another country, please send a copy with a certified translation (if necessary) to the ABNM.
- F. Please send a copy of your medical exam scores (ECFMG, NMBE, COMLEX, MCC, FLEX and/or USMLE) to the ABNM office.
- G. You must send a check made out to the ABNM in the amount of \$200 for the nonrefundable credentialing processing fee. Your request for a credentials review will not be processed without this fee.
- H. The Board may also request additional information before it makes its decision.
- I. The ABNM information brochure describes the training requirements in more detail.

8. How long will this review take?

The Board should respond to your request approximately 4 weeks after it has received all of the necessary documentation.



For a list of Nuclear Medicine Programs within a particular specialty for current Academic year and those newly accredited programs with future effective dates (*Year Ending June 30th, 2010*) please visit *The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) website at:*

[http://www.acgme.org/adspublic/reports/
program_specialty_list.asp](http://www.acgme.org/adspublic/reports/program_specialty_list.asp)



For a list of Canadian Nuclear Medicine Programs (*Effective July 24, 2009*) please visit the *Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada website at:*

[http://rcpsc.medical.org/residency/
accreditation/arps/nuclear_e.php](http://rcpsc.medical.org/residency/accreditation/arps/nuclear_e.php)

The ABNM is the primary certifying organization of nuclear medicine in the United States. The Board serves the public health through assurance of high quality patient care by establishing standards of training and certification of initial and continuing competence for physicians rendering nuclear medicine service



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