



**Notice Regarding New Requirements for Becoming and Remaining “Board Eligible”**

Commencing with neurosurgeons who complete training on or after June 30, 2021, there are new requirements for being considered by the ABNS to be “tracking toward Certification,” commonly known as “Board Eligible.”

**Requirements**

In addition to the prior requirements (successful completion of an ACGME-accredited residency and passing the ABNS’ primary (i.e., written, in training) exam for credit during residency), the new requirements are as follows:

- Each candidate for Certification must register with the ABNS and establish a case log account in the ABNS POST system prior to completion of residency or approved fellowship.
- The candidate also must register for the ABNS’ Continuous Certification (“CC”) program no later than the completion of residency; must commence participating in the CC program no later than the first January 1 following the completion of residency; and must remain current at all times on all annual requirements for participation in the CC program.
- The candidate must enter ten (10) cases into POST within six (6) months of completing residency or approved fellowship.
- Those ten (10) cases will be reviewed by the ABNS to ensure the submissions are being logged correctly and to look for early “red flags” (i.e., concerns regarding reporting accuracy, practice quality, safety or indications for surgery).

The ten (10) cases are subject to audit to ensure they are consecutive.

Where problems are identified, the individual will be counseled. In rare situations where the cases raise significant concern, the ABNS may take more serious action.

The candidate must still complete an entire 125 consecutive case log within three years of completing training. At his or her option, the initial 10 cases may (but need not) be the first of the 125 cases.

Candidates who fulfill these requirements will be listed as Tracking Toward Certification on the ABNS website until they either successfully complete the Certification process (at which time they will be listed as “Certified”) or fall out of the process.

**Non-Compliance**

A candidate who falls out of compliance with the above requirements will be given a two-month grace period to come into compliance. If the candidate fails to do so, he or she will no longer be considered to be tracking toward Certification/Board Eligible. In addition, at that juncture the ABNS shall notify the candidate’s hospital Chief of Staff (if known) that the candidate is no longer tracking toward certification/Board Eligible.

Candidates who are no longer considered “tracking toward Certification” or “Board Eligible” will be given one opportunity to re-enter the process by fulfilling all of the above requirements and paying a re-entry fee.

During any period when an individual is not in compliance, he or she may not refer to himself/herself (to hospitals/facilities, malpractice carriers, payors, patients or the public) as “tracking toward Certification, “Board Eligible” or words to that effect.

The full text of the new requirements can be found in Rule 6.10 of the ABNS’ Rules and Regulations: [Bylaws-Rules-and-Regulations-Code](#)