ABP Certification in Clinical Informatics

Pathology Informatics 2014

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Disclosures

• Both Dr. Balis and Dr. Tuthill are part of the examination question writing committee
  – We receive no direct financial compensation for this volunteer work
  – We have agreed to and honor strict confidentiality regarding exam content and other aspects of the exam creation
    • So don’t ask… : )
• We can discuss the process and publically available information regarding credentialing and certification
Some Definitions

• “Credentialed” to take the exam
  – This is the process where by you are deemed eligible to sit for the examination

• Certified
  – If you pass the exam you become “Certified” in the medical subspecialty, in this case clinical informatics

• Accreditation
  – This term is applied to residency and fellowship training programs that are recognized by the ACGME

• The title of our talk in the program book is incorrect
  – ABMS takes these terms seriously and takes umbrage when they are used wrong….ooops
Historical Perspective

And other important dates…
Timeline

• (1991 Pathology attempts to create pathology informatics board exam, but fails to develop a question bank)
  – Done under the auspices of the ABP
• 2007 AMIA is granted full membership in the Council of Medical Sub-Specialties
  – Umbrella organization that is behind ABMS
• AMIA then created
  – Summary of core content
  – Description of formal fellowship requirements
Timeline

• 2010 ABPM (?) with assistance from AMIA is granted approval by the ABMS to move forward
• October 2013 first examination administered
  – Results released December 2013 and January 2014
• October 2014 next administration of the examination
  – Application deadline June 1, 2014
  – Extended deadline with additional fee July 1, 2014
Credentialing
Eligibility, Licensure and Training

• Current certification by at least one of the Member Boards
• Those certified by ABP must apply through ABP
• Graduation is required from a medical school in the United States
  – Accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, a school of osteopathic medicine approved by the American Osteopathic Association,
  – An accredited medical school in Canada, or a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is deemed satisfactory to the Board
• Unrestricted and currently valid license(s) to practice medicine in the United States
Eligibility
Practice Pathway

- Three years of practice in Clinical Informatics is required
  - Practice time must be at least 25% of a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) to be considered
  - Practice time need not be continuous
    - However, all practice time must have occurred in the five-year interval immediately preceding application for certification

- Practice must consist of broad-based professional activity with significant Clinical Informatics responsibility
  - Documentation of Clinical Informatics research and teaching activities may also be submitted for review
Eligibility
Practice Pathway

• Verification is required that:
  – The equivalent of at least 3 years of an individual's professional time has been devoted to the practice of clinical informatics during the five years prior to application for the examination

  – A person or persons who are knowledgeable about the applicant’s practice, such as the chief of staff, the applicable department chair, the director of a related Clinical Informatics training program, or the director of the clinical informatics program in the related institution must complete the verification.

  – Completion of the verification by a partner or practice associate is NOT acceptable. The verification form will be available at the time of application
Eligibility
Fellowship Training Pathway

• Completion of a fellowship program of at least 24 months in duration that is acceptable to the ABPM is required
• The non-accredited fellowship training curriculum as well as a description of the actual training must be submitted
• Training in a non-accredited fellowship program of less than 24 months in duration may be applied toward the practice pathway
• **Starting in 2018**, only graduates of programs that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) will be accepted
Eligibility
Fellowship Training Pathway

• For those who completed non-accredited fellowship training of **less than 24 months**, the fellowship training curriculum as well as a description of the actual training must also be submitted.

• The applicant must submit evidence of additional practice to satisfy any additional Practice Pathway requirements.
Current Results
Current Results

• Over 500 persons were credentialed to sit for the examination
  – Approximately 90% passed and were certified

• Informal “guestimates” and polls suggest that approximately 25 pathologist were awarded board certification in clinical informatics
  – The ABP doesn’t list the pathologist failure rate
  – I am told that this is published on the ABP website, but I have not seen it
    • I am told it is hard to find!
Accreditation of Fellowships
Accreditation of Fellowships

- After 2018 all takers must be graduates of ACGME accredited fellowships
- ACGME has published guidelines for what the fellowship must include
  - The guidelines are very generic and appear to be nearly identical for all relevant subspecialties
  - I know of 1 program that has submitted an application
- Fellowship programs must partner with 1 of 9 primary specialty programs at their institution
  - anesthesiology, diagnostic radiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, medical genetics, pathology, pediatrics, or preventive medicine
Accreditation of Fellowships

• Many questions are raised by formal ACGME fellowship
  – How will these be funded?
  – RRC will review these: how will 9 RRC’s review these fellowships?
  – Will there be uniformity in expectations across the specialties or will fellowships evolve to take on an emphasis related to the specialty group with which they are partnering? (critical for pathology)
  – Will ACMGE accreditation increase the pipeline?
  – Will this lead to increased acceptance of the relevance of this knowledge base for all physicians?
  • Medical school courses?
References

• http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1871416

• http://www.theabpm.org/abpm_clinical_informatics.pdf

• http://www.amia.org/faq-clinical-informatics-medical-subspecialty


Questions and Discussion