American Board of Integrative Medicine (ABOIM)

Notes on Limited Time Eligibility Option

Integrative Medicine as a specialty has been growing and developing over a number of years and the board acknowledges that many doctors have created their own “curriculum” by seeking out CME, certifications, self-study opportunities, and through the clinical practice of Integrative Medicine. The board will consider physicians with a minimum of one year clinical practice in Integrative Medicine and 500 points of documented training and experience. At this time, the final application deadline for this pathway is slated for December 1, 2016.

Years of Clinical Practice

Possible Points: 50 points per year for up to five years of full-time practice - 250 point Max

Documentation Required:
There are actually two components to be documented - the years of practice and the Integrative Medicine elements used in practice.

Years of practice can be documented by a letter, on letterhead, from a practice partner, office manager, or other individual who can personally attest to the years the practice has been open. For independent practitioners with limited staff, a letter from a peer or colleague, preferably in your area, will be accepted. This could be a physician to whom you refer patients or any individual with first-hand knowledge of the years the practice has been operating.

For most applicants, a second letter will be needed to document the integrative elements of the practice. This letter should be about 1-2 pages and should provide details about the integrative practices regularly used with patients. The letter should be written by the applicant, but could be included in a single letter from a practice partner or similar individual which also includes attestation of the years of practice.

Current American Board of Integrative and Holistic Medicine (ABIHM) Diplomates

Possible Points: 200 points

Documentation Required:
The ABIHM certification must be current at the time of application. Applicants requesting these points must submit proof of current certification. This can be a printed copy your ABIHM profile or a copy of your current certificate. Documentation must clearly show the expiration date. ABPS staff will be using the ABIHM online portal to verify the certification.

Q: What if my ABIHM certification will expire before I can complete ABOIM certification?

A: ABIHM certification must be unexpired on the date your application is received by ABPS staff. All applications are date-stamped upon receipt and the ABOIM board will award points to individuals whose certification expires between the date received and the date of board review.
Category 1 Continuing Medical Education Credits (CME)

Possible Points: 1 point per documented hour of CME - No maximum - credits must be earned with the past 8 years.

Documentation Required:
Individual CME certificates or a summary roster of from the granting organization must be submitted for each claimed hour of credit. CME documentation must include a title of the activity and/or information about the course content. For example, “AAFP Quiz #24” is not acceptable, but would be considered if submitted with a syllabus or outline of the material covered that clearly showed alignment with one or more the Integrative Medicine domains of knowledge (as documented on the exam blueprint).

CME documentation must also note the hours of credit granted. Certificates without hours will not be accepted.

Category 2 Continuing Medical Education Credits (CME)

Possible Points: 1 point per documented hour of CME - 150 points maximum - credits must be earned with the past 8 years.

What is Category 2 CME?
Category 2 CME encompasses learning and educational experiences that may not meet the strict requirements to be granted Category 1 CME credits. This could include training courses or seminars in Integrative topics that did not award physician Category 1 CME, writing an article published in a peer-reviewed journal, your role as a teacher at a conference or course that awarded Category 1 credits for participants, conducting medical research, or coursework for medically-related degrees or certifications.

Documentation Required:
Because the boundaries of Category 2 CME are so broad, the documentation required is more extensive. Applicants claiming points under this option must:

- Clearly state the number of hours being claimed and
- Provide detailed information about the activity which could include a course syllabus, a conference agenda and session summaries, documented logs of teaching or research hours, or a program overview of degree and certificate programs.

For all Category 2 CME requests, it is the responsibility of the applicant to submit appropriate documentation that clearly shows alignment with one or more of the Integrative Medicine domains of knowledge.

Q: I completed training or coursework but no longer have the documentation or details needed for either the Category 1 or Category 2 options. Can I still submit this information to the board?

A: Yes, applicants are encouraged to document the full scope of their education, training, teaching or practice of Integrative Medicine on their CV, even if it does not meet the documentation requirements for the Limited Time Eligibility. No points can be awarded without documentation, however, your CV allows you to present a complete picture of your education and experience in Integrative Medicine.
Integrative Medicine in Residency (IMR)

Possible Points: 1 point per documented hour

Documentation Required:
The IMR program, designed by the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine, incorporates online curriculum in Integrative Medicine into conventional residency training for primary care specialties. The certificate granted upon completion of the program includes the number of hours of training and a copy must be submitted.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Q: Can I submit documentation to ABPS staff to see if it qualifies as Integrative?

A: Unfortunately, only the Board can judge if the eligibility criteria have been met. ABPS staff is happy to provide guidance based on previous board decisions. The Board will not “pre-screen” applicants or partial applications. Only complete applications are submitted for board review.

Q: What happens if the board does not accept some of my CME or documentation?

A: If an application falls short of the required points, the Board needs more information or documentation before accepting credits, or there is any deficiency in the eligibility requirements, the Board typically grants up to a year for the applicant to respond to the board request. This could involve providing more information or completing additional CME hours in Integrative Medicine.

However, there are some eligibility requirements such as completion of residency or passing the required background checks that cannot be remedied by granting additional time. In these rare circumstances, an application may be denied.
This summary sheet is being provided to help you organize the documentation and materials needed to request points under the Limited Time Eligibility Option. This summary form also helps ABPS staff and the ABOIM Board with their review of your application.

The first row below has been completed as an example. If additional rows are needed, please use additional summary forms. The required documentation should be organized in the order listed below and submitted with this form. Undocumented points will not be granted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat 1 CME</td>
<td>Oct 2012</td>
<td>Scripps - The Science &amp; Clinical Application of Integrative Holistic Medicine</td>
<td>34.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicant Name _____________________________________________________________

Does this listing continue on an additional summary form? YES NO

TOTAL DOCUMENTED POINTS: ________________

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