INFORMATION HANDBOOK

Geriatric Medicine CAQ Examination

April 28, 2018 Exam
Location – PearsonVUE Regional Test Centers

Deadlines and Fees –

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<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 1, 2017</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1, 2017</td>
<td>$1,100 (includes $100 late fee)</td>
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<td>December 1, 2017</td>
<td>$1,200 (includes $200 late fee)</td>
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Eligibility - Requires completion of AOA-approved geriatric medicine fellowship training program. See full list of requirements on page 2 for additional details.

AOBFP (847) 640-8477
(312) 202-8477
Website – www.aobfp.org
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

All candidates must submit the following:

1. Completed, signed and dated application
2. Copy of current state medical license with expiration date for the principle location of clinical practice
3. Copy of geriatric family medicine fellowship certificate if training completed
4. Letter of recommendation from Program Director in geriatric family medicine
5. For completed training, copy of letter from AOA granting approval of both years of training in geriatric medicine and stating that the “program is complete”
6. If training is not yet complete, exam may be completed in Spring of training year with recommendation for certification deferred until AOA has awarded ‘complete and approved’ status to fellowship training

If a candidate prefers to submit the fee payment by check or money order, then a paper application must be submitted in conjunction with that payment, along with all of the above itemized required documentation in one packet using a traceable method to the address listed below, in accordance with the specified postmark deadlines:

American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians
330 E. Algonquin Road, Suite 6
Arlington Heights, IL  60005

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American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians
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POSTMARK Deadlines and Fees – Check or money order made payable to AOBFP; late fees are nonrefundable.

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Introduction

The Geriatric Medicine Examination for a Certificate of Added Qualifications is developed by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians for certified family physicians. This program is designed to recognize excellence among those certified family physicians who care for the elderly. Note that your primary certification must remain current and in good standing to qualify for this examination.

Requirement for Licensure

A valid, unrestricted license to practice medicine in a state of the United States is required of all candidates. A photocopy of the medical license in that state of the current practice must be submitted with the application. Candidates with a restricted or suspended or revoked license in any jurisdiction at the time of application will not be admitted to the examination.

Substantiation of Clinical Competence

The application must contain substantiation of the Diplomate's satisfactory clinical competence in geriatric family medicine. This substantiation must be provided by the program director in the geriatric family medicine fellowship training program.

Prerequisites

Family physicians must be certified by the AOA, through the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians, in family practice and have training in the care of the elderly.

Training requirement

Certification by the AOA in family practice and one year of AOA-approved training in geriatric family medicine. Eligibility for examination for candidates who have completed the training requirement will be six years from the date of completion of the residency training program.

Dates

The date of the Geriatric Medicine Examination is April 28, 2018. The completed application must be submitted with all supporting documents no later than one of the applicable postmark deadline dates. All candidates who have submitted their application by the final postmark deadline date will be notified by late December of their eligibility and scheduling.

Fees

The applicable examination fee, based on the postmark deadline, may be paid online with a credit card or by check or money order and submitted with the application and supporting documents. A rescheduling fee will apply for cancellations.
Address Changes

Registered candidates should notify the Board office, in writing, of any change in address prior to or after the examination.

Location and Time of Examination

The cognitive assessment examination will be a computer-based examination given at regional test sites made available by Pearson VUE, our testing vendor. You will be provided with detailed information from Pearson VUE for the selection of your test site only after your completed application and supporting documents have been received by the AOBFP, fully processed/verified, and your eligibility is confirmed in writing. We require at least three weeks after receipt for the processing of your materials. Once you have received your verification from the AOBFP that you are approved for examination, it is to your benefit to contact Pearson VUE in a timely manner to select your preferred test site, as confirmations will be provided on a first come, first serve basis.

Instructions for Completing the Application Packet

Please read all information before completing the application form. All of the items on the application form must be filled out completely or your application will not be accepted. All supporting documents to be submitted/uploaded with the application are clearly delineated on the enclosed instruction sheet for all applicants. Please note that letters of recommendation must be on the official letterhead of the hospital and bear original signatures with the title/position of the signer.

Acknowledgement of Acceptance

All candidates whose applications have been postmarked by the final postmark deadline date will be notified by mid-January.

THE EXAMINATION

This examination will be a computer-based half-day examination administered at PearsonVUE regional testing sites. The exam will consist of approximately 200 multiple-choice questions of the "one best answer" type. The Geriatric Family Medicine examination will cover the broad aspects of geriatric family medicine that physicians caring for the elderly are expected to know. Clinical situations involving diagnosis, etiology, prognosis and natural history of disease and management will be stressed. Specific areas of emphasis will include:

- Biology and physiology of aging; osteopathic principles and practice in the care of the elderly;
- Demographics of aging; functional assessment of the elderly; ethical issues including life sustaining treatment and care near the end of life; abuse, neglect and inadequate care of the elderly; nutrition; psychosocial issues of the elderly; drug therapy and the elderly; interdisciplinary team management of the elderly; special care issues, which include psychiatric aspects, exercise, orthopedic problems, sexuality, sleep disorders, decubitus ulcers, alcohol and drug abuse, auditory disorders, chronic pain, oral cavity disorders, surgical and anesthesia concerns, falls and syncope, urinary incontinence and
vision and cataracts; health care systems in geriatric family medicine, including long-term care, policy and reimbursement and access to health care; legal issues in geriatrics medicine; rehabilitation of the elderly; diagnosis and treatment of medical diseases that require a modified approach to management of the elderly, including but not limited to disorders of the cardiovascular system, hypertension, peripheral vascular diseases, disorders of the genitourinary system, pulmonary disease, disorders of the immune system, infections, cancer and hematologic conditions, neurologic diseases, endocrine disorders, osteoporosis, fractures, other diseases of bone, rheumatic diseases, gastrointestinal disorders, gynecological disorders and dermatological conditions.

There may be clinically oriented questions with case history data included. In some of these histories, the candidate may be asked to interpret visual material such as physiological data, electrocardiograms, and imaging studies used in caring for the geriatric patient.

**Results**

The candidates will be informed of the results of the examination within 90 days following the examination date. Two retake examinations are allowed prior to further review by the Board. Those who passed the examination will receive a certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatric Family Medicine notating an expiration date of ten years thereafter. The certificate will be awarded after the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists gives final approval of the exam process for each candidate. This approval process will take about six months following the notification of successful completion of the examination. Upon written request and payment of a fee of $100, candidates may obtain rescore of the examination within a year of receiving the results. The answer sheets of candidates will be destroyed three years after administration of the examination.

**CAQ Status**

The AOA awards three types of certificates - general certification (primary), certification of special qualifications (secondary), and a certificate of added qualifications which is the result of this examination.

**Preparation**

The Board can make no specific recommendation about study methods, review courses, etc. to prepare for the examination; however, extensive self study of geriatric family medicine in texts and journals and participation in continuing medical education programs and review courses in geriatric family medicine should be useful.