



American Board of Addiction Medicine

P.O. BOX 70728 • Chevy Chase, MD 20813

TREAT ADDICTION • SAVE LIVES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Interim President

Kevin B. Kunz, M.D., M.P.H.

Specialty Directors

Emergency Medicine

Gail D'Onofrio, M.D., M.S.

Family Medicine

Richard D. Blondell, M.D.

Internal Medicine

Jeffrey H. Samet, M.D., M.A., M.P.H.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Robert J. Sokol, M.D.

Pediatrics

Hoover Adger, Jr., M.D.

Preventive Medicine

Kevin B. Kunz, M.D., M.P.H.

Psychiatry

Kathleen T. Brady, M.D.

Surgery

Larry M. Gentilello, M.D., FACS

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H.

Lon R. Hays, M.D., M.B.A.

Elizabeth F. Howell, M.D.

Michael M. Miller, M.D.

Edward V. Nunes, M.D.

Patrick G. O'Connor, M.D.

Martha J. Wunsch, M.D.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE VICE

PRESIDENT

James F. Callahan, D.P.A.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Christopher Weirs, M.P.A.

December 13, 2008

Dear ASAM-Certified Physician:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM), I am pleased to inform you that ABAM will be offering the certification examination in Addiction Medicine. The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) will transfer its certification examination to ABAM, and the examination will be offered by ABAM in 2010 and subsequent years.

ABAM is offering ABAM Diplomate status to all physicians currently holding ASAM certificates in good standing. ABAM Diplomate status represents Board Certification for practitioners of Addiction Medicine. ABAM certification will be in effect until your most recent ASAM certification or recertification is due to expire.

A physician certified by ABAM is board certified. ABAM is an independent certifying board, and is not a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The creation of ABAM, however, is the first official step toward seeking ABMS recognition of Addiction Medicine. The ABMS procedures for seeking recognition stipulate that "a medical specialty board must be a separately incorporated, financially independent body . . ." ¹ By creating ABAM, the responsibility for the certification examination has been placed in the hands of a completely separate board of directors from that of the specialty society, ASAM.

When the ABMS eventually recognizes Addiction Medicine, the ABMS will likely require all ABAM-certified physicians to already be holding a primary certificate from an ABMS member board. If, at that time, you are not ABMS board certified, ABAM will advocate with the ABMS to allow the ABAM diplomates who are not ABMS board certified to use an alternate pathway to ABMS board certification.

By acting now to be an ABAM Diplomate, you may avoid a training requirement imposed in the future for board certification in Addiction Medicine; you may also avoid future fee increases for the ABAM examination.

There are three opportunities in 2009 to apply for ABAM Diplomate status: January 31, May 15 and June 30, 2009. Persons whose applications for ABAM Diplomate status are received at the ABAM office by January 31, 2009, will have the option of being awarded their ABAM certificate at the ASAM Annual Medical-Scientific Conference in New Orleans, LA, on May 2, 2009.

TREAT ADDICTION • SAVE LIVES

Phone: (301) 656-3378 • Facsimile: (301) 656-3815

E-mail: email@abam.net

An application for ABAM Diplomate status is enclosed. The pro-rated fee schedules shown on the application reflect your initial ASAM certification year and your application date.

Every physician who becomes an ABAM Diplomate is a participant in the process of achieving ABMS recognition of the specialty of Addiction Medicine. All application and verification fees will be used by ABAM and The ABAM Foundation to continue the necessary steps to achieving ABMS-recognition of Addiction Medicine.

The answers to the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) may respond to concerns you have about the grandfathering process, and other issues. For more detailed information you may also want to contact one of these ABAM representatives:

For questions on completing or filing the grandfathering application: Mr. Christopher Weirs (Director of Operations, ABAM, at: 301-656-3378; email@abam.net

For questions about ABAM and the grandfathering eligibility criteria: Dr. Kevin Kunz, Interim President, ABAM at: email@abam.net; or Dr. James Callahan, Interim Executive Vice President, ABAM at: 978 887-7690, or at: email@abam.net

I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to become an ABAM Diplomate. I also encourage you to attend the 2009 ASAM Annual Medical-Scientific Conference in New Orleans, where addiction medicine physicians will celebrate the passage of Federal Parity legislation, the establishment of ABAM and The ABAM Foundation, and the installation of the inaugural Diplomates of ABAM.

Sincerely,



Kevin B. Kunz, MD, MPH, FASAM
Interim President
American Board of Addiction Medicine

1. "A medical specialty board must be a separately incorporated, financially independent body which determines its requirements and policies for certification, selects the members of its governing body in accordance with the procedures stipulated in its bylaws, accepts its candidates for certification from persons who fulfill its stated requirements, administers examinations, and issues certificates to those who submit to and pass its evaluations." (Approval of New Examining Boards in Medical Specialties: Twelfth Revision of Essentials for Approval of Examining Boards in Medical Specialties, November 8, 2005; American Board of Medical Specialties.)