



UCNS Policy on Recertification

All UCNS certifications are time-limited, expiring on December 31st of the tenth year after the year of issuance. The UCNS Board has adopted a policy setting forth requirements that must be met by all diplomates in order to maintain their certification. This policy is effective January 1, 2011. It applies to all current and future diplomates.

General Requirements

Throughout the ten-year certification cycle, the diplomate must maintain a current, active, valid, unrestricted and unqualified license to practice medicine and continue to be a diplomate in good standing in the primary specialty of an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member board or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) that was required for eligibility when he or she applied for initial UCNS certification. All diplomates are reminded of their responsibility to notify UCNS promptly of any change in their licensure or primary certification status. In addition, prior to the expiration of his or her certificate, the diplomate must: a) take and pass a recertification examination and b) complete 300 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™], 60 (20%) of which must be related to the diplomate's UCNS subspecialty. The same continuing medical education (CME) credits can be used to satisfy the recertification requirements for multiple specialties and subspecialties. For those diplomates who were certified prior to the effective date of this policy, CME requirements have been prorated as set forth in the chart below. Before the end of the tenth year of certification, each diplomate will be required to submit evidence that all requirements of this policy have been met. Recertification begins upon the expiration date of the current certificate, even if all requirements for recertification were met earlier.

Ordinarily, an applicant will sit for that UCNS recertification examination offered closest to the expiration date of his or her current UCNS certification. If no certification examination in the diplomate's subspecialty is offered in the year when his or her certificate expires, UCNS will provide diplomates an extension on their certification to the next examination to avoid a lapse in certification. If the diplomate does not pass the examination, he or she may retake it when it is next scheduled. Those passing the examination will be reminded that they also must complete all required CME hours to be eligible for recertification.

A diplomate may choose to sit for an examination scheduled earlier than the examination offered closest to the expiration date of his or her certificate; provided, however, that no diplomate may sit for an examination prior to the seventh year.

If a diplomate passes the examination but does not meet the CME requirement prior to the expiration date of his or her certificate, he or she may request reinstatement of the certificate if within six months of the expiration date he or she: a) completes the CME requirement for the period up to the expiration date, b) completes an additional 15 CME hours (3 hours of which must be subspecialty-specific), and c) pays a \$150 reinstatement fee. Until these requirements are met, the applicant remains uncertified.

Any examinee who fails an examination may re-take the examination up to two additional times; provided, however, that no examinee may re-take an examination after four years from the date his or her certificate expires.

If, prior to expiration of his or her certificate, a diplomate fails or does not sit for a recertification examination, he or she may obtain a new certificate if within four years after the certificate expiration date he or she: a) completes the CME requirement for the period up to the expiration date (the examination application must show that this requirement has been met), b) completes 30 additional CME hours per year (6 of which must be related to the subspecialty) for each year after the expiration date, c) pays a \$150 fee (in addition to the examination fee), and d) passes the examination. Until these requirements are met, the applicant remains uncertified. A new ten-year certification cycle begins when all the requirements are met. If any of these requirements remain(s) unmet at the end of the four-year period, the diplomate will not be eligible for recertification.

Examination Fees

The fees for recertification examinations and reexaminations are outlined in the [UCNS Certification Examination and Fee Schedule](#) located on the UCNS website.

Audit

UCNS intends to audit approximately 5% of all applications for recertification to determine compliance with the requirements of this policy. It reserves the right to audit any application at any time.

Recertification Requirements Summary Effective January 1, 2011

Year of Certification or Recertification	Certification Expiration	<i>AMA PRA Category I Credits™</i> Required Prior to Certificate Expiration (20% of which must be subspecialty-specific)	Primary Specialty Certification by ABMS Board or RCPSC	Professional Standing (Medical Licensure)
2006	2016	180 (36)	Must maintain throughout 10-year cycle	Must maintain throughout 10-year cycle
2007	2017	210 (42)		
2008	2018	240 (48)		
2009	2019	270 (54)		
2010 and Beyond	2020 and Beyond	300 (60)		

* Required subspecialty-specific hours are noted in parentheses

*Examinations may not be available in the year of certificate expiration. Diplomates should carefully review the UCNS examination schedule.

*Application deadlines for examinations precede the examination date by approximately six months.