Part II Certification Examination
Information for Candidates

May 16 & 17, 2020
# Table of Contents

Location and Travel
- Air Reservations ................................................................................................................1
- Hotel Reservations ................................................................................................................1
- Examination Location ............................................................................................................2

Preparing for the Examination
- Videos .......................................................................................................................................2
- Registration .............................................................................................................................3
- Supplies/Prohibited Materials ..................................................................................................3
- Attire .........................................................................................................................................3
- Test-Taking Advice ..................................................................................................................4

Examination Overview
- Examination Schedule ............................................................................................................5
- Examiner Conflicts ..................................................................................................................6
- Examination Administration ....................................................................................................6
- Examination Results ................................................................................................................6

Examination Domains ................................................................................................................7

Administrative Policies
- Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities .................................................................9
- Disruptive Behavior ................................................................................................................9
- Late Arrival ..............................................................................................................................9
- Examination Irregularity Policy, Nondisclosure Policy, & Cooperation Agreement ..........9
- Examination Research ..........................................................................................................9
- Medical Licensure Policy .......................................................................................................9
- Smoking Policy .......................................................................................................................9
- Part II Examination Appeal Policy .......................................................................................9

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*The content of this publication is subject to change from year to year. A current version of the ABPMR Part II Information for Candidates can be found on the [ABPMR website](http://www.abpmr.org).*

**American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

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Location and Travel

The ABPMR Part II (oral) Examinations are held at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The 2020 examinations will take place on May 16 and 17. It is recommended that you arrive in Rochester the day before your scheduled examination session.

Air Reservations

The city of Rochester, Minnesota is located approximately 80 miles south of Minneapolis/St. Paul. When flying in, you can choose to arrive at either the Rochester airport or the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport.

The ABPMR has negotiated with Delta Airlines to provide discounted airfare. This discount can be obtained only by reserving through Travel Leaders/Market Square Travel via the link below:

[Travel Leaders/Market Square](#)

For the fastest reservation service, click here to fill out the air travel reservation form for ABPMR Part II Examination Candidates, remembering to plan to arrive in Rochester, Minnesota, at least one day before your scheduled exam.

After you submit the form, a travel agent will be in touch with reservation information via email; be sure to approve the proposal after you receive it or the reservation may be cancelled. (If you have questions about the form or your reservation that cannot be answered via email, call 800.533.2012.)

Rochester Airport (RST)

Multiple flights arrive daily from Chicago via American, United, and Delta airlines and from Minneapolis-St. Paul via Delta. Access to and from the Rochester airport is provided by taxi, Uber, or shuttle service.

Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport (MSP)

There are two companies that offer airport shuttle service from the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport to several downtown Rochester hotels. Shuttle service is located inside the MSP terminal near the hotel shuttle boarding area. Advance reservation is required. Reservations can be made by contacting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groome Transportation</th>
<th>Rochester Shuttle Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>507.280.9270</td>
<td>507.216.6354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hotel Reservations

The ABPMR has negotiated discount rates with one Rochester hotel, but there are a few others also within walking distance of the examination site (see map on following page for the hotels marked with a red star). To reserve at the Hilton Garden Inn, click the unique link below to reserve a room in the PM&R candidate discounted block. Reservations for other hotels can be made on your own using web-based reservations or calling the hotel directly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hilton Garden Inn</th>
<th>Kahler Grand Hotel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>225 S Broadway</td>
<td>20 Second Ave SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester MN 55904</td>
<td>Rochester MN 55902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.800.HILTONS</td>
<td>800.533.1655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Click to reserve a room</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thekahlerhotel.com">www.thekahlerhotel.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kahler Inn and Suites</th>
<th>Rochester Marriott</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Third Ave NW</td>
<td>101 1st Ave SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester MN 55901</td>
<td>Rochester MN 55902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800.533.1655</td>
<td>877.623.7775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.kahlerinnsuites.com">www.kahlerinnsuites.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.marriott.com">www.marriott.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Location and Travel, cont’d

Examination Location

The Part II Examinations are conducted on the 5th floor of the Mayo Clinic Building, located at 200 1st Street SW. You must enter the building through the east doors, near the courtyard. Click here for an interactive map of the exam site, airports, and hotels.

Preparing for the Examination

Videos

To aid you in preparing for the Part II Examination, the ABPMR has created a set of videos. One addresses the logistics and process of exam day, and two additional videos show a dramatization of a vignette administration to give you an idea of the style of the examinations. These videos are available at the ABPMR website.
Preparing for the Examination, cont’d

Registration
Prior to the examination weekend, you will receive a Part II procedure notice by email which includes your Schedule Notice with the date and time of your examination session. Please do not lose this information; you will need to present the Schedule Notice at the time of registration on the day of your examination. ABPMR staff will use the Schedule Notice for identification purposes and to locate your examination materials. If you do not have the Schedule Notice, you will be asked to provide a photo ID (eg, driver’s license or passport). Plan to arrive at the examination site 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of your examination session. Late arrival may result in the loss of your examination seat.

At registration, you will receive your detailed examination schedule. You will also be given a name tag to indicate that you have properly registered. This identification must be clearly visible to examiners during the examination session.

Registration will be followed by a 10-minute mandatory orientation. Ample time has been scheduled for registration and orientation to ensure that you will not be deprived of the allotted time for the examination.

Supplies/Prohibited Materials
Each examination room will have the supplies needed for you to complete the examination. Scratch paper and pencils will be available for you to take notes during the examination but must remain in the examination room.

No personal items are allowed in the examination room. This includes, but is not limited to, computers, cell phones, pagers, watches, audio recording devices or any other electronic device or information storage system, notepaper, cameras, pens, books, study materials, luggage, tie tacks, briefcases, purses, and food.

Please make arrangements to store these materials before arriving at the examination site. You may contact your hotel regarding options for storing personal possessions during the examination. Candidates who bring prohibited items to registration will need to check these items with ABPMR staff until the conclusion of their examination. The ABPMR assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen items.

Health-related items such as eyeglasses and hearing aids are allowed in the examination room but may be inspected during the registration process. If you have a visual impairment, you may use magnifying visual aids.

If you have specific questions, please contact the ABPMR office prior to the examination.

Attire
Professional business attire (coat and tie for men and similar attire for women) is strongly recommended for the examination session.

Remember:
- Read and sign the Examination Irregularity Policy, Nondisclosure Policy, Cooperation Agreement, and Part II Examination Appeal Policy online by logging in to your Physician Homepage prior to traveling to Rochester for the exam
- View the Part II videos on the ABPMR website
- Arrive in Rochester the day before your examination
- Bring your printed Schedule Notice email to the examination site for registration
- Do not bring any personal items, including cell phones, to the exam site
Preparation for the Examination, cont’d

Test-Taking Advice

The Part II Examination is an interactive process between you (the candidate) and the examiner. The test-taking strategies described below can facilitate this communication process.

Approach the Examination Systematically

The Part II Examination is based on the assumption that you will approach information gathering and management in a systematic and thorough fashion. Be very clear with the examiner about the specific information you are requesting and the procedures or actions you will take. The examiner may ask for clarification if your answer is unclear.

Proceed to Manage the Case if Information is Not Available

Some information is not provided on the examination. If the examiner indicates that information is not available, simply proceed to manage the patient as you normally would without the requested information.

Examiner Responses

To ensure that the Part II Examination is administered fairly and uniformly, examiners may respond and behave in ways that are not typical in other settings. Examiners receive extensive training to ensure that they respond the same way to all candidates so that no candidate receives an unfair advantage due to cueing or clues transmitted via body language, tone of voice, facial expressions, or extra hints or information. The Part II Examination is an evaluation and not intended to be educational or to replicate all aspects of an actual case seen in practice.

You can expect your examiners to:

- Give minimal feedback and responses. This may come across as cold and unhelpful, but examiners are coached not to give feedback or to respond in any way (e.g., nodding or smiling) that would cue candidates that they are, or are not, “on the right track” or steer them toward a particular response. Candidates may take this lack of affirmation or responsiveness personally or mistake it for hostility. Do not let yourself be distracted in this way!

- Sometimes indicate that certain information is “not available.” All candidates will receive the same response when asking for information that is not included in the vignette. Be assured that information that is “not available” is not needed to address the case.

- Interrupt or move the conversation to the next domain. Examiners are coached to move candidates along so that all domains are covered and candidates do not needlessly spend additional time on any one section. It is to your advantage to allow the examiner to set the pace.

Keep Answers Specific

It is your responsibility to provide accurate, relevant, and appropriate responses to the clinical situation. Therefore, responding to questions by offering every possibility that comes to mind may not reflect your comprehension of the specific issues and may adversely affect your ratings. It is important to keep your responses specific and directly related to the questions.

Speak Precisely and at a Moderate Pace

Examiners document your answers in their notes. Speak precisely and at a moderate pace so the examiner can accurately document the encounter. If you are going too fast, the examiner will ask you to slow down.

Answer Questions Efficiently

It is to your advantage to answer questions efficiently and to provide as much information as possible within the time available for each domain. You may jeopardize successful completion of the examination by taking excessive time in answering questions.

Listen to the Examiner’s Cues

During the examination, you will give and receive information. Listen to the examiner’s cues — they are intended to give you the information necessary to manage the patient. The examiner will not ask you trick questions. All examiner information is pertinent and designed to guide you through the examination.
Examination Overview

Examination sessions are scheduled throughout the weekend on both Saturday and Sunday. Each session consists of three separate 40-minute examinations separated by five-minute breaks. Each candidate will be scheduled for one day only (Saturday or Sunday) and one session.

## Saturday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1A - Saturday AM</th>
<th>Session 1B - Saturday AM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>6:30-7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>6:45-7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>7:00-9:10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>7:05-7:35 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>7:20-7:35 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>7:35-9:45 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 2A - Saturday AM</th>
<th>Session 2B - Saturday AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>9:15-9:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>9:30-9:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>9:45-11:55 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>9:50-10:20 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>10:05-10:20 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>10:20 am-12:30 pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 3A - Saturday PM</th>
<th>Session 3B - Saturday PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>12:30-1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>12:45-1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>1:00-3:10 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>1:05-1:35 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>1:20-1:35 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>1:35-3:45 pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 4A - Saturday PM</th>
<th>Session 4B - Saturday PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>3:15-3:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>3:30-3:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>3:45-5:55 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>3:50-4:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>4:05-4:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>4:20-6:30 pm</td>
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</table>

## Sunday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 5A - Sunday AM</th>
<th>Session 5B - Sunday AM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>6:30-7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>6:45-7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>7:00-9:10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>7:05-7:35 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>7:20-7:35 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>7:35-9:45 am</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 6A - Sunday AM</th>
<th>Session 6B - Sunday AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>9:15-9:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>9:30-9:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>9:45-11:55 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>9:50-10:20 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>10:05-10:20 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>10:20 am-12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During registration at the exam site, you will be assigned to a group. Five minutes prior to the start of your first session, you will be asked to move to your assigned group. Each group will be escorted to the hallway where their exam rooms are located. You will find your exam room (listed on the back of your nametag) and stand outside the room until you hear the chime indicating that you may enter the room.

A chime will sound when each session has ended. For the second and third sessions, you are responsible for finding the exam room. You have five minutes between each session. ABPMR staff will be available to direct you to your next room. Once you locate the room, you will again wait outside the room until you hear the chime sound, indicating that you may enter the room.

**Examiner Conflicts**
Prior to the creation of the examination schedule, a list of all Part II candidates is distributed to the ABPMR examiners. The examiners must indicate if they are familiar with any of the candidates; if a potential conflict of interest exists, the candidate is not scheduled with that examiner. If you find a conflict of interest situation when you enter an examination room, make your concern known immediately to the ABPMR staff.

**Examination Administration**
Examiners will present a minimum of three vignettes during each session. The examiner will begin the vignette by presenting a clinical case description. This information will also be provided to you in print for your reference throughout the vignette discussion. As the examination proceeds, further details will be provided regarding different aspects of patient evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment.

The vignettes are designed to provide you with the opportunity to demonstrate clinical skills and the ability to integrate and apply professional knowledge, interactive skills, and standards to clinical situations. Vignettes are structured specifically for the Part II Examination and are not intended to replicate all aspects of an actual case seen in practice.

Your examiner will likely take notes throughout the session to formulate an evaluation. As you progress through the three exam sessions, remember that each examiner is working independently of the other examiners; no examiner knows how a candidate scored in other sessions.

During one or more of the sessions, a Part II Examination proctor may be present to observe. This person will evaluate the examiner to ensure that ABPMR guidelines are upheld. The proctor will not interact with you and will have no impact on your scores.

The Part II Examination is conducted in an evaluation setting. It is not intended to be an educational experience. Examiners are instructed not to give feedback to candidates during or after the examination.

**Examination Results**
Exam results typically are released six to eight weeks after an exam administration. You will be notified by email when results and score reports are viewable electronically (by logging into your abpmr.org account). Exam results are not given via telephone, fax, or email. Please do not contact the ABPMR office regarding your results until eight weeks after the examination.

Successful completion of both the Part I and Part II Examinations and satisfactory completion of other ABPMR requirements will result in “certified” status with the ABPMR. Diplomates will receive a certificate and are automatically enrolled in the ABPMR Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program.
## Examination Domains

Your performance on each vignette is evaluated using the performance criteria described within the following domains:

### Data Acquisition
This domain is used to evaluate the acquisition of data that is critical to the provision of quality patient care. The appropriateness of the critical data identified by the candidate should be reflected in this rating. The components of this domain include:

- patient history
- physical examination components
- functional evaluation
- response to psychosocial aspects of illness and functional limitations

This domain addresses the following question: Did the candidate identify the appropriate data required to correctly diagnose and manage the patient?

### Problem Solving
This domain addresses the appropriateness of the candidate’s organization of data collection activities in relation to patient management decisions. The components of this domain include:

- integration of medical knowledge with clinical data
- prioritization of rehabilitation goals and medical issues/formulation of management plan
- generation of a differential diagnosis
- use of evidence-based medicine
- application of research and statistical methods
- use of information technology

This domain addresses the following question: Did the candidate, in an appropriately organized manner, collect data to select among reasonable alternative diagnoses while ensuring patient stabilization and anticipating future problems or support requirements?

### Patient Management
This domain addresses patient treatment decisions and the sequence of management actions. The components of this domain include:

- medication prescriptions
- exercise and modality prescriptions
- durable medical equipment prescriptions
- therapeutic and diagnostic injections
- use of evidence-based medicine
- comprehensive therapeutic care plan including patient monitoring and followup
- promotion of health and function and prevention of disease and injury
- management of complex medical problems

This domain addresses the following questions: Did the candidate treat or direct the appropriate treatment(s) at the appropriate times? Did the candidate efficiently arrive at an informed and appropriate management plan?
## Examination Domains, cont’d

### Systems-Based Practice
This domain addresses the candidate’s ability to operate within the healthcare system to supplement patient management. The components of this domain include:
- knowledge of practice and delivery systems
- evaluation of risks, benefits, limitations, and costs of available resources
- resource use/justification
- outcomes
- healthcare referrals
- team management

This domain addresses the following questions: Did the treatment plan include proper referral of the patient at an appropriate time? Did the candidate properly take risks and benefits into account when formulating a plan of care?

### Interpersonal and Communication Skills
This domain rates the demonstrated concern, knowledge, and skill of the candidate in dealing with the patient’s questions and concerns, as well as with the concerns of the patient’s family. The components of this domain include:
- communication skills with patients, families, and health professionals
- listening skills
- demonstration of compassion, sensitivity, and respect for patients, families, and colleagues
- sensitivity to diversity issues
- ethics/professionalism

This domain addresses the following questions: Is the candidate able to provide appropriate explanations and respond ethically and sensitively to the patient and/or the patient’s family? Can the candidate communicate effectively and ethically with consultants and hospital support staff as well as other interested parties?
Administrative Policies

The ABPMR has a number of policies that govern and protect the certification examinations. Below are the policies related to the Part II Examination.

Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

The ABPMR supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and makes reasonable accommodations in examination procedures for individuals with documented disabilities. Refer to the ABPMR Policy on Requesting Accommodations under the ADA and the Application for Accommodations form.

Disruptive Behavior

The ABPMR has the right to remove you from the examination because of disruptive behavior. If you are removed from an examination because of disruptive behavior, no refund of fees will be available.

Late Arrival

It is your responsibility to arrive at the examination site 30 minutes before your scheduled exam time. The ABPMR cannot alter its administration of the examination for candidates who experience difficulties getting to an examination. Any candidate who is not available at the start of the orientation session will not be permitted to take the Part II Examination. Make-up examinations will not be administered.

Examination Irregularity Policy, Nondisclosure Policy, and Cooperation Agreement

All candidates are required to sign the ABPMR Examination Irregularity Policy, Nondisclosure Policy, and Cooperation Agreement by logging in to their Physician Homepage at abpmr.org prior to arriving for the exam in May.

Examination Research

The ABPMR reserves the right to conduct and report research studies of its examinations and its examination data for the purposes of quality assurance, examination development, and benefit to the specialty. Individual candidate confidentiality will not be violated or compromised.

Medical Licensure Policy

Applicants are required to possess a current, valid, and unrestricted license to practice medicine in at least one jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada. Evidence of unrestricted licensure in the state or states in which the physician practices will be required prior to issuance of the certificate.

If any license currently held by the candidate is restricted or qualified in any way, the applicant must provide full details of the restriction or qualification. The ABPMR may, in its sole discretion, determine whether to investigate any questions relating to the applicant’s licensure status. The ABPMR reserves the right to approve or deny the application after review. Refer to the ABPMR Licensure Policy.

Smoking Policy

Smoking is prohibited on all Mayo Clinic properties. No smoking is allowed at the examination site.

Part II Examination Appeal Policy

All candidates will be required to sign this policy by logging in to their Physician Homepage at abpmr.org prior to arriving for the exam in May. Refer to the ABPMR Part II Examination Appeal Form and the ABPMR Appeals Policy.