American Board of Surgery Update
Association of Residency Coordinators in Surgery
Boston – March 25, 2011
Key Points

- ABSITE
- QE Application
- Reporting of training and non-clinical time
- CE – oral exam
- Training Program Section of website
ABSITE - Comments/Questions

- PDs unable to look at exam
- Latency and connectivity issues; freezes
- Proctors not being able to see test sessions created by other proctors
...Comments/Questions

- Errors in New Examinee Profile, i.e., first and last name reversed, SSN, incorrect program code, etc.
- Started wrong exam, junior vs. senior
ABSITE - Scoring and Results

- Will results be available sooner?
  - Results received only after close of exam window
  - Processing of results is the same whether exam is online or paper and pencil
  - Multiple groups/individuals involved
ABSITE – processing of results

- The only time saved: the counting and scanning of answer sheets
- Miscoding of program name and number
- Reconciliation of exams used vs. exams ordered
Things to consider

- Miscoding of program information
  - New Examinee Profile
- Proctor for multiple programs, i.e., ABSITE & VSITE
- Examinees taking ABSITE & VSITE
- Responsibility for order and payment
Graduate Surgical Education & Training Requirements
Graduate Surgical Education

- A minimum of five years of progressive residency education
- Junior year(s) completed as NDP must still meet all of ABS requirements
- ABS does not differentiate whether year is NDP or categorical when it is used to meet five years of training
Completion of PGY 3

- Three years at PGY1 and 2 levels cannot replace completion of PGY 3 year
- Cannot complete three years at PGY 1 & 2 and then promoted to PGY 4
  \[ \text{PGY 1 + PGY 2 + PGY 2} \]
  \[ \text{PGY 1 + PGY 2 + PGY 3} \]
- Caution should be used when promoting residents to advanced levels without prior ABS approval
Medical Leave

- 48 weeks of clinical training each year
- Medical leave – ABS will accept 46 weeks in one of the first three years and 46 weeks in one of the last two years
- Must have at least 142 weeks in first three years and 94 weeks in last two years
If medical leave exceeds these limits:

- Program must contact ABS to formulate a remediation plan, which may include:
  - Extending residency beyond June
  - Using less vacation time in future years

Medical leave is for resident only; not leave time to care for others
Leave – the Six-Year Option

- Complete 5 clinical years over 6 academic years
  - At program’s discretion with advanced ABS approval
  - Training must be completed in a single program
  - May take up to 12 months off, excluding the chief year
The Six-Year Option con’t…..

- Option may be used for any purpose approved by program & the ABS, including but not limited to:
  - Family issues
  - Maternity/paternity leave or medical problems
  - Educational opportunities
  - Volunteerism
  - Visa issues
Leave time – non-clinical time

- Skills lab and courses (i.e. ATLS, FLS, etc.) do not count against the 48 week minimum
  - Non-clinical elective time can be used; up to 6 mos.

- All other time away, including end of the chief year transition time, must be managed with vacation time and be reported to ABS
Qualifying Exam Application Requirements: An Overview
QE Application - requirements

- Application must be signed by program director. **No** other signature is acceptable. Resident & PD signature must be original.

- Include copy of ACGME Op Report

- 42 months devoted to content areas of surgery
Entire chief year devoted to content areas of surgery per ABS BOI

- Thoracic surgery also accepted in chief year

No more than 4 months in any one specialty during chief year

150 chief cases; 750 cases in five years
Content Areas of Surgery

- Alimentary Tract
- Abdomen and its Contents
- Breast, Skin and Soft Tissue
- Endocrine System
- Organ Transplantation
- Pediatric Surgery
- Surgical Critical Care
- Surgical Oncology (including Head & Neck)
- Trauma/Burns and Acute Care Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
ACLS, ATLS, FLS Certification

- Certification does not need to be active/current at time of application
- Applicant must have passed all steps to achieve initial certification
- ATLS history report – not acceptable

ECFMG certificate - if applicable
...requirements continued

- Documentation of satisfactory completion, if in more than one program, i.e., certificate, letters from former PD(s)

- Copy of full and unrestricted medical license if applying to the QE more than 6 months following completion of residency
National Provider Identifier (NPI) is now required for QE applicants who complete a residency program in the U.S. The NPI may be obtained from the National Plan & Provider Enumeration System website, www.nppes.com.
Reporting of Surgical Critical Care

- Minimum of total 25 cases for Surgical Critical Care Patient Management
- At least **one** case reported in each of the seven categories

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<th>SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE PATIENT MANAGEMENT</th>
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<td>Organ dysfunction: renal, hepatic, cardiac</td>
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<td>Invasive line, manage/monitor: Swan, Arterial, etc</td>
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ABS Transplant Experience Requirement

- Must have either a rotation in transplant or operative experience in transplant. If not, send patient roster with application.

- ABS requires pre-operative, operative and post-operative experience in transplant.

- Objective is for resident to have direct patient care of transplant patients.
Graduate Medical Education Section

- This section must list from the start to the end of residency the following:
  - Each rotation – accurate description
  - All vacation time
  - Absences of 48 hours or more (single-day entries are not permitted)
GME Section continued....

- Medical Leave
- Research
- Early departure to transition to fellowship, private practice; etc.
**GME – New Features**

**General Surgery Qualifying Examination Application Form (DRAFT)**

**Graduate Medical Education**

This section must be filled out correctly for your application to be accepted. Incorrect or incomplete information will delay your application's approval. Click on the blue instructions circle above for specific instructions on how to complete this section.

### Add New Record

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**Form Outlines**
- Personal Information
- Mailing Address and Contact Information
- Birthplace and Citizenship
- Medical School
- State Medical License
- National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- Medical Certification

**Graduate Medical Education**
- Post-Residency and Fellowship Plans
- Reasons for Post-Residency Fellowship or Practice Plans
- Additional/Advanced Medical Training
- Description of Surgical Practice - Hospital Affiliations
- Certification of Achievement of Clinical Skills
- Completion

**Sort Feature**

**Instructions**

**Application Preview**
Submission of Application Materials

- Applications are considered complete only when all hard copy materials are received at ABS – regardless of online submission.

- A checklist will now be included when application is printed from the ABS website.
  - Application signed by resident & PD
  - AGCME op report
  - ACLS, ATLS, FLS
Application Materials con’t…. 

- Certificate(s) of satisfactory completion
- ECFMG certificate
- Full & unrestricted medical license
- Payment of application fee – online by credit card only
- Letter of explanation for any clarification
Application Deadlines & Fees

- Application must be received in ABS office by May 2 (not postmarked)
  - Application fee is $300
- Applications received after May 2 will be charged the late fee (an additional $200)
  - Total fee is now $500
- Applications are accepted through to June 1 with payment of late fee
Licensure

- License must be current, full and unrestricted

- Temporary, limited or educational licenses are **NOT** acceptable, even if pursuing advanced training or fellowship

- Required either 6 months following completion of residency or for the CE (oral exam) – **whichever comes first**
Certifying Oral Examination (CE)
CE – Certifying Oral Exam

- Fast Track option – applies to only the first CE after the QE (early October)

- All QE candidates will be emailed regarding Fast Track – in July

- Must reply to email to express interest and provide information on full and unrestricted medical license
CE continued....

- Then complete online registration & pay $900 exam fee

- Taking CE is contingent upon passing QE; if unsuccessful, CE cancelled and fee refunded

- Tentative assignment for remaining three CE exams – made once QE results are available

  - Candidate will only be registered when full and unrestricted medical license is verified
Training Programs
Section of the ABS website
Training Programs

For current academic year, program username and password will only access the following:

- Trainee Rosters
- In-Training Examination
- SCORE Subscription
Training Programs

- The program log-on cannot access:
  - Program director information related to his/her ABS certification status
  - Results for the QE or the CE for former residents
Reports of Candidate Performance

- Reports for the QE/CE - not available on website
- Twice per year, reports are emailed to PDs & coordinators:
  - Five-Year Program Pass Rate – in July
  - Annual Report w/ QE results – in September
ABSITE Results

- On ABS website in Training Programs > 2011 In-Training Exams:
  - Emailed notice when results are available
  - Available on website for only a limited time
  - Files can be saved to your records
  - ABS does not retain individual score reports (Report C) nor provide transcripts
Thank you!

Questions?