



American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Complex Pediatric Otolaryngology Update

The American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHNS) appreciates and has considered all the feedback received from specialty societies, diplomates, and other key stakeholders regarding the Complex Pediatric Otolaryngology (CPO) subcertification. Following discussions with the ABOHNS Board of Directors, it was decided that changes to the process were warranted. We previously communicated that the first written exam date was moved to November 2, 2021.

Following, are additional, important changes to the CPO subcertification process:

- The assessment to attain subcertification will change from a written and oral exam to a **written-only exam**.
- The training pathway will increase from five years to **seven years** in length.
- The practice pathway will increase from seven years to **nine years** in length. The practice pathway will close after the written exam administration in 2030.
- The application portal opening date will be March 15, 2021.

Documents and forms will be available on the ABOHNS website before March 15, 2021, at the time the application portal opens. Except for the length of time to become subcertified, all eligibility requirements remain unchanged as presented in Table 1. **In the absence of an oral exam, the eligibility requirements now must be met at the time of applying for the written exam.**

The CPO application fee is \$800, which is consistent with other similar ABOHNS administrative fees. The due date for completed applications for the November 2, 2021 written exam is May 24, 2021. After an applicant is confirmed to have met all eligibility requirements, the registration fee for the written exam is \$2,325.

The ABOHNS offers its gratitude to the otolaryngology-head and neck surgery community for your patience as we made these program modifications, some of which were due to the continued concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Please send any further questions or feedback on this matter to cpo@abohns.org. We hope you, your families and your colleagues continue to be safe and remain well.

With Best Regards,

Kathleen Sie, MD
Chair, ABOHNS CPO Steering Committee

Brian Nussenbaum, MD, MHCM
Executive Director

Table I:

	<u>TRAINING PATHWAY</u>	<u>PRACTICE PATHWAY</u>
ABOHNS Primary Certification in good standing	Required	Required
Training	ACGME-accredited fellowship required; completed on or after June 30, 2015	No requirement
Practice Setting	Privileges at facility with NICU level 3 or equivalent	Privileges at facility with NICU level 3 or equivalent
Qualifying Cases	50 index cases within 2-consecutive years	100 index cases within 4-consecutive years
Multidisciplinary Activities, for example cleft lip/palate clinic, VPI clinic, craniofacial clinic, NICU rounds, tumor boards	At least 12 times per year; can be from > 1 activity	At least 12 times per year; can be from > 1 activity
Length of time to become subcertified	7 years	9 years Closes after 2030 written exam