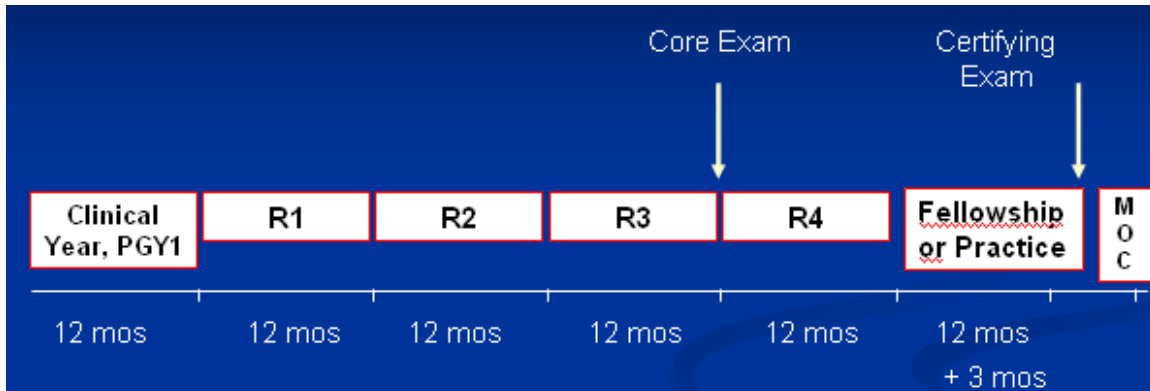


Overview of the ABR Examination Changes



CORE EXAM

- The Core Exam will be taken 36 months after the beginning of radiology residency training. In 2013, the exam will be given during the first week of October, in order to avoid administration in close proximity to the June oral examination for the residents who began training in July 2009.
- It will be an image-rich, computer-based exam administered at a central location.
- The exam will test knowledge and comprehension of anatomy, pathophysiology, all aspects of diagnostic radiology, and physics concepts important for diagnostic radiology.
- The examination will take 1½ days.
- Physics questions will be integrated into each category. No separate physics examination will be administered.
- Eighteen categories are included on the examination, all of which must be passed. The categories are: breast, cardiac, GI, MSK, neuroradiology, pediatric radiology, thoracic, reproductive/endocrine, urinary, vascular, CT, IR, MR, nuclear medicine, radiology/fluoroscopy, ultrasound, physics and safety.
- If a candidate fails one to five categories, he/she will have conditioned the examination and must take a repeat examination in the categories that were failed. If a candidate fails more than five categories, the entire examination must be repeated.
- Beginning with the residency class starting radiology training July 1, 2010, candidates have five years to pass the core examination after they first qualify to take it. An additional year of training will be required if the candidate does not pass the core exam during this time.

CERTIFYING EXAM

- The Certifying Exam will be taken 15 months after completion of diagnostic radiology residency.

- It will be an image-rich, computer-based exam administered at a central location.
- The examination will emphasize synthesis of information, differential diagnosis, and patient management. Aspects of physics and basic sciences that are important in imaging will be included on the examination.
- The exam will include five modules, all of which must be passed. The examination will be graded as pass/fail. If any one module is failed, the entire examination must be repeated.
- Three modules will be in clinical practice areas selected by the individual, based on training, experience, and practice emphasis. One, two or three different practice areas may be selected. The practice areas are: general radiology, breast, GI, MSK, thoracic, cardiac, neuroradiology, pediatric radiology, ultrasound, reproductive/endocrinology, VIR, urinary, and nuclear radiology. Each of the clinical practice areas will include some items relevant to pediatric radiology.
- There are two required modules:
 1. Noninterpretive skills: This refers to general topics of importance to the practice of radiology, such as radiation safety, recognition and management of contrast reactions, error prevention, communication skills, professionalism, ethics, and other aspects of practice.
 2. Essentials of Diagnostic Radiology: The content includes basic knowledge that every radiologist should know, such as recognizing child abuse, pneumothorax, shock bowel, and subdural hematoma.
- Beginning with the residency class starting radiology training on July 1, 2010, candidates will have five years to pass the certifying examination after they first qualify (e.g., 15 months after finishing residency or after the core examination is passed, whichever comes later). An additional year of training is required if the candidate does not pass the Certifying Exam during this time.