UC San Diego Health

This policy applies to: UCSD Health	Last Approval Date: DATE 10/23/2023
Name of Policy: Board Certification	**Page 1 of 2**
Policy Number: MSP 018	
Departments Affected: All Departments	

The requirement for physicians to achieve and maintain board certification is intended to maintain the high professional standards of UC San Diego Health (UCSDH) Medical Staff, and to ensure consistency throughout the various Services. Service Chiefs are responsible for compliance with this policy.

Certifying Boards- UCSDH accepts the certifying boards that are identified in Article 1.2 of the UCSDH Medical Staff Bylaws.

Applicants for Medical Staff Categories with Clinical Privileges – Applicants must be currently board certified by the appropriate certifying board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). Newly appointed physician members of the Medical Staff shall obtain board certification by the appropriate credentialing board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery within seven (7) years of completion of their final clinical training program.

Current Medical Staff Members – Medical Staff Members with privileges granted between August 31, 2014 and December 31, 2020 must attain certification within 5 years of initial appointment.

The Board Certification requirement does not apply to the following:

a. Dentists, podiatrists, psychologists, APPs and members of the Medical Staff without clinical privileges; and
b. Applicants and/or Members who are internationally trained and as a result, do not otherwise qualify for Board Certification, are also exempted from this Policy. This includes Members practicing in California pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 2111, 2113, and 2168. However, if the Applicant and/or Member's education and/or training does not preclude them from obtaining board certification from a board listed in this section, then this exception does not apply.

Exemptions:

In order to request an exemption, an applicant must have demonstrated ongoing clinical activity without quality concerns. Exemptions may be granted by the MSEC for the following reasons:

Initial Applicants:

a. For applicants who have been a Member of the Alvarado Hospital Medical Staff for at least 5 years and who apply on or before December 1, 2023:
    i. The applicant has (a) significant (15+ year) clinical experience post-residency; (b) they were previously Board Certified; (c) their certification has lapsed; and (d) they are no longer board eligible; or
    ii. The applicant has (a) significant (10+ year) clinical experience post-residency; (b) they were previously Board Certified; (c) their certification has lapsed; and (d) the applicant can still be re-certified.

For all applicants applying for an exemption, OPPE and FPPE for activities within Alvarado Hospital and any other hospital where the applicant is currently privileged, for the last 5 years, must be provided to demonstrate appropriate clinical quality. If a waiver is granted, the applicant will also undergo additional

proctoring for a period to be determined by the MSEC and their Service. The additional proctoring, and any other safeguards as are reasonably necessary, will be imposed to ensure that the Practitioner is providing appropriate quality of care.

For those who are applying pursuant to subsection (a)(ii), in addition to the information requested related to OPPE and FPPE, the following information must be provided:

i. Confirmation from the applicant's board that they are qualified to apply for certification; and
ii. An explanation of the reason the applicant has failed to maintain Board Certification and the applicant's plan to become Board Certified, including the anticipated time frame to obtain certification.

A written request for an exemption, which includes the basis for exemption and any of the requirements set forth above, must be made to the Service Chief. In addition to the information provided above, the Service Chief may also consider the applicant's NPDB report and prior Professional Liability history.

The Service Chief, after review of the request, will forward their recommendation and the appeal to the MSEC for consideration. The MSEC will evaluate the request and determine if an exemption is to be granted and the duration of the waiver.

The decision of whether to grant a waiver is at the sole discretion of the MSEC. Any waiver granted by the MSEC will be for the time period deemed appropriate by the MSEC, after careful consideration of the waiver request. For those who may obtain certification again, all granted waivers may not exceed a total of five (5) years to obtain certification.

Failure to maintain active board certification will be considered as possible grounds for non-reappointment or termination of Medical Staff privileges, unless an exemption is granted.