

Child Protection Team Medical Provider Certification Exam Now Launched

In 2015 the Florida legislature created a requirement that all CPT Medical Directors should either become board certified in Child Abuse Pediatrics (CAP) or pass a competency-based examination established by a third-party credentialing entity (Florida Statutes, Section 39.303(2)(b)). As a result, CPT subject matter experts have worked with the Florida Certification Board (FCB) to create a Child Protection Team Medical Provider (CPTMP) Certification Examination. This examination is now available for eligible candidates, and CPT leadership is also extending the opportunity to obtain this credential to all qualified CPT medical providers who wish to have it. The following are answers to questions that we expect will be commonly asked about the examination.

Q: Who wrote the exam?

A: Your CPT colleagues listed below participated in a multi-stage process, creating the examination over a period of several months. The emphasis was on creating an examination which would effectively assess the practical knowledge needed to perform Child Protection Team work.

CPT CAP Medical Directors

Bruce J. McIntosh, M.D.

Walter Lambert, M.D.

Jerome Isaac, M.D.

Marius Kesler, M.D.

Carol Lilly, M.D.

John Wright, M.D.

William Rubenstein, M.D.

Other Medical Directors and Providers

Cameron Rosenthal, M.D.

Matthew Seibel, M.D.

Carol Sekhon, M.D.

Rachel Thomas, ARNP

Marilyn Barnes, ARNP

Q: What kind of exam is it?

A: The exam is a 100-question multiple-choice exam with three options for possible answers for each question, only one of which is will be correct. It is administered by computer.

Q: What exactly does the exam cover?

A: The attached "Blueprint for Exam Questions" shows the distribution of exam items over the various domains of knowledge.

Q: Who has to take the exam and when?

A: All team Medical Directors who are not sub-board certified in Child Abuse Pediatrics are required by statute to take and pass the exam. Those already in place at the time the statute was enacted in 2015 must pass it before July 1, 2019. Those hired later must pass it within 4 years of the date they are hired. CPT leadership, however, requests that those needing to take the exam not wait that long but rather take it as soon as possible and not later than two years from now.

Q: Who else can take the exam?

A: Any CPT medical provider who has been employed a minimum of 6 months is eligible to take the exam. Only non-CAP Medical Directors are required to take it.

Q: Why would I want to take this exam if I'm not required to?

A: Some CPT medical providers who are not CAP sub-board certified have had their credentials challenged in court. Holding a CPTMP certificate from the Florida Certification Board would be a demonstrable indicator of competence in the field of child maltreatment.

Q: How do I sign up for the exam?

A: The FCB has all program materials on their website at this link: <http://flcertificationboard.org/certifications/child-protection-team-medical-provider-cptmp-certification-program/>. First, go to this website and create a personal account. You are strongly encouraged to use your primary personal email account for receiving notifications related to this activity. Second, you will complete the "CPT Medical Provider Certification Application" you'll find there, and third, you'll send it to Peg Scheuermann (peggy.scheuermann@flhealth.gov) who will verify your eligibility to take the exam. After the FCB has received verification from Ms. Scheuermann you will be contacted and given information on selecting a testing site and date.

Q: How much does it cost to take the exam?

A: There is no cost to the individual or the team for the exam. The expense of developing and administering the exam is covered by a recurring allocation. Candidates will have to pay a \$30 proctoring fee to the facility where they take the exam, but this will be reimbursed by the FCB.

Q: Where is the exam given?

A: The exam will be administered at multiple test sites around the state. When registering for the exam, the candidate will be able to select the most convenient site.

Q: What's the passing score on the exam?

A: The passing score is 70%.

Q: When will I learn if I passed the exam?

A: The candidate will be informed immediately as to whether or not he/she passed. The exact score will be forwarded later.

Q: What happens if I don't pass the exam?

A: Candidates who don't achieve a passing score on the exam will be provided feedback on the domains needing improvement and will be permitted to take it again after 30 days, allowing the candidate time to review as needed for the re-take. The exam software will change both the order of the questions and the order of the possible answers, so the exam will never look the same twice.

Q: What can I do to prepare for the exam?

A: You're already doing the most important things, evaluating clinical cases and discussing them with your colleagues and supervisors, following the literature and attending continuing education courses on child maltreatment. Because of the work you do on a daily basis, most candidates should be able to pass the exam using the knowledge they already have, with no additional special preparation. The attached "Blueprint for Exam Questions" can be used as a guide for further study if desired. The University of Florida Conference on Child Maltreatment held annually in Palm Coast is a particularly useful CME opportunity on the subject. In addition there is a 12-module Core Curriculum on Child Maltreatment posted on the Department of Health TRAIN site. The attached "Child Protection Team Medical Staff Core Curriculum Guide" details how you can access these training modules; contact Ken McCain (Ken.McCain@flhealth.gov) if you need assistance in signing onto TRAIN. Taking the modules through TRAIN will provide DOH with documentation that you have participated in the training. We were, unfortunately, unable to arrange CME and CEU credit for these modules due to a Florida statute that prohibits DOH from paying for such credits.

Q: How will we know if the exam is any good?

A: Just as the performance of the candidates taking the exam is assessed, the performance of the exam's questions will be assessed through statistical analysis by the FCB. A Steering Committee of CPT subject matter experts has been established which will work with the FCB going forward to monitor the exam's performance and to periodically refresh the it with new questions.

Now that all of your questions have been answered, I would encourage you to:

1. Go to the FCB website <http://flcertificationboard.org/certifications/child-protection-team-medical-provider-cptmp-certification-program/> to create your FCB account and complete your CPT Medical Provider Certification Application.
2. Submit your application to Peg Scheuermann (peggy.scheuermann@flhealth.gov) for verification and forwarding to the FCB.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any other questions.

Bruce J. McIntosh, M.D.
Statewide Medical Director, Child Protection Team System