

# NABBLM-C Grandparenting In Pathway Exam April 2024

NABBLM's mission includes defining the standards for physicians to practice Breastfeeding and Lactation Medicine (BFLM). This includes determining the requirements for education, clinical experience, and mentorship that qualify one to sit for the certification exam.

Primary care physicians are demonstrating an increased interest in seeking further education and certification to practice evidence-based BFLM. NABBLM is determining how to distinguish physicians who practice BFLM which includes the entire dyad at a level beyond basic breastfeeding knowledge.

I am a physician with another certification (e.g. IBCLC). Why should I do this?

The IBCLC and CLC eligibility requirements for certification do not include requisite knowledge and skills for physicians to practice full scope Breastfeeding and Lactation Medicine (BFLM). NABBLM-C is specifically for physicians who provide comprehensive BFLM evaluation and management for the entire dyad. Dyads deserve comprehensive and evidence-based medical evaluation and management of their breastfeeding and lactation issues, just as they would be cared for during pregnancy or for any other medical issues.

We anticipate that board certification of physicians in BFLM will eventually lead to recognition as a medical specialty. As a medical specialty, BFLM will establish its field in academic centers, resulting in increased health professional training, fellowship opportunities, research, and potential for improved reimbursement.

Why did the eligibility criteria for grandparenting-in change for 2024?

The exam in October 2023 was a pilot exam. The NABBLM organization is young, and the board has continued to explore and refine the eligibility requirements for the grandparenting pathway based on its experiences. It has been determined that longitudinal learning over the last 3+ years is a requirement for this pathway.

I don't qualify for the current grandparenting pathway, so now what?

Grandparenting is just one eligibility pathway to acknowledge those who have extensive knowledge and experience in this field. The board is hard at work determining these pathways and will share that information as soon as it is finalized.

I have CME over 3 years but not necessarily 10 per year - what should I do?

The goal behind this requirement is to demonstrate a commitment to this field via evidence of longitudinal learning. It would be difficult to establish and maintain an evidence-based BFLM practice without partaking in ongoing education.

Many people who practice BFLM earn 20+ CME credits each year by attending physician-level conferences such as the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine and/or the Institute for the Advancement of Breastfeeding and Lactation Medicine, in addition to participating in other accredited educational activities.

The board is aware that some physicians may have received continuing education that was not accredited for CMEs. It is also understood that physicians who practice BFLM are often required to stay current in their primary specialties. The board decided after the October 2023 exam that 10 CME credits pertaining to BFLM each year is the minimum required to remain current in the field. This is many fewer CMEs/year than many other board certification organizations require.

The Credentials Committee is willing to evaluate each individual's long term learning provided in their applications but cannot guarantee that exceptions will be granted. Inclusion of all BFLM CME (by physicians for physicians) over the past 3+ years would assist in our determination for those who do not meet the parameters. NABBLM encourages applicants to provide additional information regarding their practice and experience in the field. As a reminder, the application fee is non-refundable and applications will not be pre-screened.

What do I need to have to apply for the exam?

Applicants are required to submit their CME certificate(s) for their reported credits. A transcript from an education provider (e.g. IABLE) that shows multiple credits can be uploaded in lieu of several individual certificates. If the presenter is not listed on the CME or transcript, the agenda submission will be required to demonstrate that the speaker was a physician, PhD, or PharmD. The exam application will also require information regarding medical education, licensure, and practice description over the past 3+ years.

I have other questions not answered here, what can I do?

Please feel free to contact us at [admin@nabblm.org](mailto:admin@nabblm.org) with your questions!