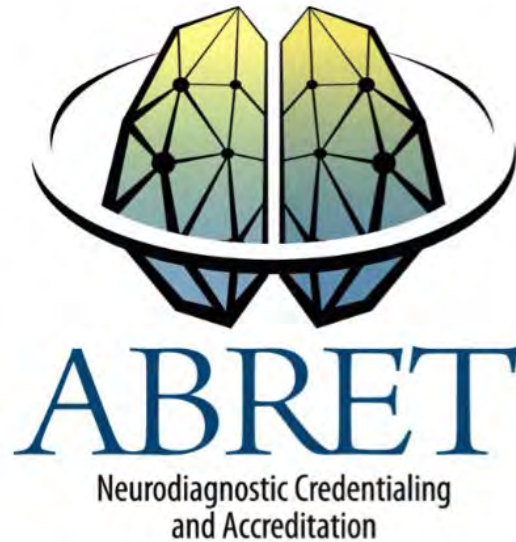


2024



**Handbook for Candidates
Microcredential for**

**CNIM Specialist in IOM
Complex Spine
CNIM - CS**

ABRET Executive Office
111 E. University Drive., #105-355, Denton, TX 76209

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The **CNIM Specialist in IOM Complex Spine Examination** (CNIM-CS) is designed and written for the advanced level Neurodiagnostic professionals, or formally trained intraoperative monitoring (IOM) professionals who are currently practicing in an intraoperative environment specializing in complex spine cases.

This handbook contains necessary information about the CNIM-CS examination.

Please retain it for future reference.

Candidates are responsible for reading these instructions carefully.

This handbook is subject to change – Please refer to the [ABRET website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Introduction

ABRET is a nonprofit credentialing board. ABRET supports the concept of voluntary certification by examination for health care professionals in intraoperative monitoring (IOM). Certification focuses specifically on the individual and is an indication of current knowledge in IOM specializing in complex spine cases. ABRET does not guarantee the job performance of any individual.

Objectives of ABRET

TO ESTABLISH COMPETENCY IN IOM COMPLEX SPINE BY:

1. Providing a standard of knowledge in IOM Complex Spine required for certification.
2. Establishing and measuring the level of knowledge required for certification in IOM Complex Spine by means of an objective, computer-based written examination.
3. Formally recognizing those individuals who meet the eligibility requirements of ABRET and pass the CNIM Specialist in IOM Complex Spine Examination.
4. Encouraging continued professional growth in IOM Complex Spine through mandatory continuing education and recertification.

Non Discrimination Statement

ABRET – Neurodiagnostic Credentialing & Accreditation does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, national origin, marital status, or handicapped condition.

Administration

The Certification Program is sponsored by ABRET. The CNIM Specialist in IOM Complex Spine Examination is administered for ABRET by the Professional Testing Corporation (PTC): 1350 Broadway – Suite 800, New York, New York 10018 – (212) 356-0660 – [PTC website - www.ptcnyc.com](http://www.ptcnyc.com)

Questions concerning the exam should be addressed to the ABRET Executive Office: 111 E. University Dr. #105-355, Denton, TX 76209 – (217) 726-7980 – www.abret.org or by email: Tami@abret.org

Fees

Application Fee for the CNIM Specialist in IOM Complex Spine	\$400
Rescheduling Fee 29-5 days prior to scheduled appointment Paid directly to Prometric (see page 5)	\$50

THERE ARE NO REFUNDS nor TRANSFER OF FEES

2024 CNIM-CS Eligibility Chart

CNIM - CS Eligibility Requirements:

1. Current CNIM
2. Two years as a CNIM Technologist
3. Documentation of 50 Complex Spine Cases
4. Current CPR/BLS certification

The CNIM-CS credential is achieved upon successfully passing the CNIM-CS Exam

Completion of the CNIM Documentation Form

1. The Candidate must be the **primary** technologist in the set-up, troubleshooting and monitoring of each case listed.
2. Observation of a Complex Spine case may not be included in the required cases, but supervised cases are acceptable, as long as the requirements listed above are met.
3. ABRET will accept documentation of up to two cases per day. Do not submit more than the requested number of cases.
4. Complex Spine NIOMs must be conducted within the last 5 years with a minimum of 10% completed within 24 months of application.
5. Monitoring performed in the operating room during a surgical procedure should be included. Pre-op testing and procedures do not satisfy this requirement.
6. Documentation forms will be randomly audited which can delay or negate eligibility.

The Certificate is achieved upon successfully passing the IOM Complex Spine Exam.

A list defining complex spine cases is provided on the Complex Spine IOM Documentation Form.

The Complex Spine microcredential is awarded for five years.

After 3 unsuccessful attempts to pass the examination within a 2-year timeframe, candidates must wait 6 months and submit an additional 15 hours of Continuing Education before being eligible to test.

Petition of Eligibility – Visit ABRET.org to find the petition form and instructions.

Quick Tips

Before Proceeding with the Application Process

*Your name must match exactly with the name shown on current government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport. Do not use nicknames or abbreviations.

*CNIM-CS Documentation forms are available on the ABRET website.

*PDFs are best.

*Have all required eligibility documents ready to be uploaded into your ABRET Certemy Account.

*Retain copies of all uploaded documents for your records.

*Keep this HANDBOOK for reference.

Application Procedure

Applications for the ABRET examinations should be completed online through the ABRET website. www.abret.org

- 1) Read the Handbook for Candidates and follow instructions.
- 2) Visit ABRET.org – click on **EXAMS** and select **CNIM Specialist in IOM Complex Spine** under **Microcredentials**
- 3) Select "Online Application" to begin the application process.
- 4) [Log into your ABRET Certemy account.](#)
- 5) Complete the application by inputting your information and uploading your eligibility requirements including payment of the \$400 examination fee.
 - Most major credit cards are accepted.
 - Mail checks directly to: ABRET Executive Office – 111 E. University Dr., #105-355, Denton, TX 76209

Upon verification of your eligibility requirements and application, your registration for the exam will be sent to PTC. See the "Scheduling Examination" section of this handbook for information for scheduling your exam.

A denial of eligibility for certification may be appealed in writing and sent to ABRET within 30 days. See RUL-21 of ABRET Examination Policies posted on the ABRET webpage in the **About Us** page under **Principles**.

Candidates have three (3) months from the status of "Eligible to Test" date to sit for the examination. After the 3-month period, candidates will need to reapply for the examination and pay a new application fee. THERE ARE NO REFUNDS nor TRANSFER OF FEES

After exam results are uploaded into your ABRET Certemy account, proceed as directed:

Pass Results: The CNIM credential is awarded for five years. See information in ABRET's Recertification webpage.

Fail Results: Candidates are provided one (1) exam attempt per application submission within the established three (3)-month time frame. **Candidates who do not pass the CNIM-CS Exam will not be allowed to retest for a period of 6 months.** Please contact ABRET following six (6) months to reassign your application at 217-726-7980 or by submitting a Contact Us email (abret.org/contact-us/). You will essentially need to repeat **ALL** steps of the online application process.

* Please do not contact the ABRET office about your results until you receive your OFFICIAL test results. You will not be able to reapply until the OFFICIAL test results are in.

Quick Tips Following the Application Process

- *Candidates should retain copies of all uploaded documents submitted for eligibility requirements.
- *Application status will be PENDING until all steps of the application, including payment, are completed:
 - If you paid by CHECK, your "Application Form" will not be completed until payment is received.
 - You may have been randomly selected for audit. You or your supervisor will be contacted by our auditor with any questions or instructions on next steps.

Scheduling Your Examination

Candidates cannot schedule an examination appointment until they have received a Scheduling Authorization from the Professional Testing Corporation (PTC) via email.

Scheduling Authorizations will be emailed to candidates from notices@ptcny.com approximately 2–5 business days after the status of “Eligible to Test” is achieved. Please ensure you enter your correct email address on the application and add the ‘ptcny.com’ domain to your email safe list. If you do not receive a Scheduling Authorization within two weeks of achieving “Eligible to Test” status, contact PTC at (212) 356-0660 or online at www.ptcny.com/contact for a duplicate.

The Scheduling Authorization will indicate how to schedule your examination appointment with Prometric as well as the dates during which testing is available. Appointment times are first come, first serve, so schedule your examination appointment as soon as you receive your Scheduling Authorization in order to maximize the availability for your preferred location and preferred date.

Your examination is now available to be administered in two ways: at a physical Prometric test center or via live remote proctoring in your home or another quiet distraction free location. For the live remote proctoring option, you must provide a computer with a camera, microphone, and an internet connection to allow real-time communication with a remote proctor.

The remote proctoring option requires candidates to download ProProctor™ software from Prometric to establish remote access to the candidate’s computer. This application includes Prometric’s test engine software, as well as a lockdown browser to ensure secure test delivery.

1. Run a system readiness check to confirm that your computer and network will allow testing through ProProctor,™ from this link: <https://rpcandidate.prometric.com/Home/SystemCheck>
2. Schedule your exam by visiting www.prometric.com and selecting the appropriate icon under Remotely Proctored Exam menu.
3. Download Prometric’s ProProctor™ application. This will enable you to take the exam online while a Prometric proctor is monitoring the examination process remotely. It is recommended that you download and install this software a day before you are scheduled to take the exam.

After you make your test appointment, Prometric will send you a confirmation email with the date, time, and location of your exam. Please check this confirmation carefully for the correct date, time, and location. Contact Prometric at (800) 741-0934 if you do not receive this email confirmation or if there is a mistake with to sit for the exam.

Note: International candidates may also schedule, reschedule, or cancel an appointment online at prometric.com.

Current government-issued photo ID (driver’s license or passport) must be presented in order to gain admission to sit for the exam. **Temporary, paper driver's licenses are not accepted.** It is recommended to have a printed copy of Scheduling Authorization as well as Prometric appointment confirmation.

It is the candidate’s responsibility to contact Prometric to schedule the examination appointment.

Arrival at the testing site at the appointed time is the responsibility of the candidate. Plan for weather, traffic, parking, and any security requirements specific to the testing location. Late arrival may prevent you from testing.

*It is highly recommended the candidate becomes familiar with the testing site’s location prior to appointment.

Changing Your Examination Appointment

To reschedule current examination appointment to a different date within your three (3) month testing period, you MUST contact Prometric either online at www.prometric.com/abret or by phone at (800) 741-0934.

Rescheduling Fees:

30 days prior to the scheduled appointment, there is NO (\$0) Rescheduling Fee.

29-5 days prior to the scheduled appointment, there is a **\$50.00** US Rescheduling Fee paid directly to Prometric.

***NO Rescheduling is Permitted Less than 5 days prior to scheduled appointment.**

Candidates have three (3) months from the status of “Eligible to Test” date to sit for the examination.

After the 3-month period, candidates will need to reapply for the examination and pay a new application fee.

THERE ARE NO REFUNDS nor TRANSFER OF FEES

Special Requests

Special Accommodations

ABRET and PTC support the intent of and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). PTC will take steps reasonably necessary to make certification accessible to persons with disabilities covered under the ADA. According to the ADA, an individual with a disability is a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity (such as seeing, hearing, learning, reading, concentrating, walking) or a major bodily function (such as neurological, endocrine, or digestive system). The information you provide and any documentation regarding your disability and special test accommodations will be held in strict confidence.

All approved testing accommodations must maintain the psychometric nature and security of the examination. Accommodations that fundamentally alter the nature or security of the exam will not be granted.

Special testing arrangements may be made upon receipt of the Application, examination fee, and a completed and a signed [Request for Special Needs Accommodations Form](#) or by calling PTC at (212) 356-0660. This Form must be uploaded with the online application no later than 8 weeks prior to the start of the chosen testing period.

Only those requests made and received on the official Request for Special Needs Accommodations Form will be reviewed.

Letters from doctors and other healthcare professionals must be accompanied by the official Form and will not be accepted without the Form. All requests must be made at the time of application.

Accommodation cannot be added to an existing exam appointment.

Application Agreement

- 1. Application.** I certify that all the information contained in my application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I hereby authorize ABRET and its officers, directors, employees, and agents (collectively, “ABRET”) to review my application and to determine my eligibility for certification.
- 2. Compliance with ABRET Rules.**
 - A. I have read and agree to abide by ABRET’s policies and procedures, including but not limited to those listed below. I will read and keep up to date with these rules.
 - i. Handbook for Candidates (including the Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Policy);
 - ii. Use of Credential and Trademark Policy; and
 - iii. ABRET Examination Policies.
 - B. I agree that ABRET may take action regarding my application, examination, or certification in accordance with its Disciplinary Policy, and that the penalties for violation of an ABRET rule include (but are not limited to) denial, revocation, or limitation of my certification.
 - C. As specified within the Disciplinary Policy, I agree to notify ABRET of any change in name, address, telephone number, or email address, and of any development bearing on certification such as (but not limited to) suspension, revocation, or expiration of a state license to practice, being sued by a patient, or being investigated or reprimanded by a state regulatory board.
- 3. Cooperation.** I agree to cooperate promptly and fully in any review of my application, examination(s), or certification, and I agree to submit any additional information requested.
- 4. Examination Confidentiality.** I am seeking admission to take the examination(s) for the purpose of pursuing certification, and for no other purpose. Because of the confidential nature of the examination(s), I agree to not make or keep copies, excerpts, or notes of examination materials, and to not use or divulge information learned from the examination(s). The examination(s) is/are the exclusive property of ABRET, and I will not use examination information in any way without the express prior written consent of ABRET.
- 5. Examination Administration.**
 - A. I agree to abide by ABRET’s reasonable rules regarding examination administration. ABRET may refuse my admission to an examination if I do not have the proper identification (valid photo ID and eligibility notice), or if administration has begun. The proctors may take steps as they believe necessary to maintain a secure and proper examination administration, including (but not limited to) relocating me before or during the examination.
 - B. If I am refused admission or fail to appear at the examination site, or if my examination performance is voided based upon my behavior, I agree that I will not receive a refund of the application or examination fees and there will be no credit for any future examination.
 - C. I understand that review of the adequacy of examination materials will be limited to computing accurate scoring; I hereby waive all further claims of examination review.
 - D. I acknowledge that ABRET is concerned with reporting only valid scores. I agree that ABRET may cancel an examination score if there is adequate reason to question its validity because of misconduct or other circumstances.
 - E. A passing score is required for credentialing in all instances.
- 6. Continuing Compliance.** I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to maintain and demonstrate continuous compliance with all ABRET policies and procedures.
- 7. Certification Marks.**
 - A. The CNIM Specialist in IOM Complex Spine credential and the stylized “CNIM-CS” logo are the sole and exclusive property of ABRET and are subject to all applicable trademark and other rights of ABRET as owner

Application Agreement (continued)

under United States intellectual property law and international conventions. I agree to abide by ABRET's instructions regarding use of its intellectual property, and to not use this intellectual property in any way without the express prior written consent of ABRET.

B. I agree to correct at my own expense any inaccurate or unauthorized use by me of ABRET's credential and logo. I agree that if I refuse to make corrections, then ABRET is entitled to obtain all relief permitted by law, including but not limited to injunctive relief to enforce its rights with respect to the protection of its name, credential, logo, and other intellectual property.

8. Information Release. I agree that ABRET may release information regarding my application and certification record to state and federal authorities, licensing boards, employers, and others. This information includes (but is not limited to) ABRET's findings regarding review of my application, fraudulent statements made by me, information indicating noncompliance with laws or regulations or with policies of other organizations, and the pendency or outcome of disciplinary proceedings.

9. Duration of Credential. This Application Agreement will become effective as of the date of acknowledgment upon submitting my application and will remain in effect for the duration of my application review. If I am granted certification, the terms of this Application Agreement will automatically continue in effect for the duration of my credential. I acknowledge and agree that initial credential is awarded only for a five (5) year period, and that completion of recertification requirements, recertification applications, and reviews will be required to maintain my credential.

10. Waiver of Claims & Indemnification.

A. I hereby waive all claims against ABRET arising out of my application and my participation in the certification program, including (but not limited to) claims arising out of (i) any release of information to state and federal authorities, licensing boards, employers, and others, and (ii) any investigation and review of my application and certification by ABRET. If ABRET is required by law to disclose confidential information, the individual(s) whose information is released will be notified to the extent permitted by law.

B. I agree to indemnify ABRET for any third-party claims arising out of any action taken pursuant to the policies and procedures of ABRET with regard to my application, the examination, or my certification. In addition, I agree to indemnify ABRET for any third-party claims arising out of my professional practice and related activities.

C. The provisions of this Waiver of Claims & Indemnification section do not extend to claims based on the gross negligence or willful misconduct of ABRET.

D. My obligations and rights and those of ABRET under this Waiver of Claims & Indemnification section will survive beyond the termination or expiration of my certification and remain in full force and effect.

11. Governing Law & Venue. This Agreement is governed exclusively by the laws of the State of Texas, without reference to its choice of law doctrine. The parties agree that the sole jurisdiction and venue for any litigation arising from this Agreement is the appropriate federal court for the Eastern District of Texas or state court located in Denton County, Texas. If a dispute arises, the parties shall make a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute through dialogue and negotiation prior to pursuing court action.

Upon submitting the application for "CNIM-CS" you will be asked to acknowledge that you have read and understand this Application Agreement and agree to its terms in consideration for the opportunity to seek certification from ABRET.

Information Release: If granted certification, you will be authorizing ABRET to release your name and the fact that you have been granted certification to newspapers and other publications, and to release your name, employment information, address, and email address in ABRET's online directory and mailing list. You may opt out of this process by notifying the ABRET office in writing.

Examination Administration

The Examination for CNIM Specialists in IOM Complex Spine is administered on a daily basis, Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays, at computer-based testing facilities managed by Prometric.

In the event of inclement weather, check the [Prometric website for site closures](#).

Prometric's website provides information on what you can expect on your test day, including a walkthrough of check-in and security procedures: www.prometric.com.

Rules for Examination

Please read the information below carefully. You are responsible for adhering to the examination rules while at the testing center.

1. You must present your current driver's license, passport, or US Military ID at the testing center. Candidates without valid ID will NOT be permitted to test. Temporary or paper copies of your ID will not be accepted.
2. No Electronic devices that can be used to record, transmit, receive, or play back audio, photographic, text, or video content, including but not limited to, cell phones, laptop computers, tablets, Bluetooth devices; wearable technology (such as smart watches), MP3 players (such as iPods), pagers, cameras, and voice recorders are permitted to be used and cannot be taken in the examination room. Prometric provides lockers for your personal items.
3. No papers, books, calculators, rulers, or reference materials may be taken into or removed from the testing room.
4. No questions concerning content of the examination may be asked during the examination session. The candidate should read carefully the directions that are provided on screen at the beginning of the examination session.
5. Candidates are prohibited from leaving the testing room while their examination is in session, with the sole exception of going to the restroom.
6. Bulky clothing, such as sweatshirts (hoodies), jackets, coats, and hats (except hats worn for religious reasons), and most types of jewelry may not be worn while taking the examination. Proctors will ask you to remove such items and place them in your locker. Please see [Prometric's statement on Test Center Security](#) for more information.
7. All watches and "Fitbit" type devices cannot be worn during the examination.
8. No food/beverages are permitted inside the testing room. Leave these items in your assigned locker.

Accessing cell phones and electronic devices at any time while you are taking the exam is prohibited. You can only remove snacks, drinks, medicine, or personal health care items from your locker. No backpacks, bags, purses, or clothing can be removed while your exam is in session.

Contact PTC at (212) 356-0660 or www.ptcny.com/contact with any questions about the Examination Rules.

VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE RULES LISTED ABOVE MAY LEAD TO FORFEITURE OF FEES, DISMISSAL FROM THE TESTING ROOM, AND CANCELLATION OF YOUR TEST SCORES.

Quick Tips Before Examination Day

- *Hours and days of availability vary at different centers. You will not be able to schedule your exam appointment until you have received a Scheduling Authorization from notices@ptcny.com.
- *It is highly recommended the candidate becomes familiar with the testing site's location prior to your appointment.
- *This Handbook provides the Content Outline for the Examination. Use it to help guide your study in preparing for the examination.

Content of the Examination

1. The Examination for CNIM Specialist in IOM Complex Spine is a computer based examination composed of multiple-choice, objective questions with a total testing time of two (2) hours.
2. The content of the examination is described in the Content Outline below.
3. The questions for the examination are obtained from individuals with expertise in neurophysiologic intraoperative monitoring and are reviewed for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by a separate group of subject matter experts.
4. ABRET, with the advice and assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation, prepares and reviews the examination.
5. The Examination for CNIM Specialist in IOM Complex Spine will be weighted in approximately the following manner:
 - I.Preparation and Application of Fundamental Concepts.....25%
 - II.Intraoperative Phase.....65%
 - III.Post-Operative Phase.....5%
 - IV. Ethics.....5%

Content Outline

- I. Preparation and Application of Fundamental Concepts.....25%**
 - A. Neurological Disorder & Neuro examination – Preop Neuro Exam
 - B. Elements of History Related to IOM - Elements of a patient history
 - C. Special Consideration/Contraindication
 - D. Complex Spine Procedural Pre-Operative Risk Assessment/Modality Selection/Muscle & Nerve Selection
 - E. Medical Complex Spine Procedural terminology and stages
 - F. Complex Spine Specific neuroanatomy/neurophysiology/pathophysiology/pathology
 - G. Specialty Equipment Considerations and Setup/Configuration
 - H. Anesthetic protocols for complex spine procedures
 - I. Safety protocols relevant to all modalities and communication
- II. Intraoperative Phase.....65%**
 - A. IOM Correlates of Clinical/Surgical Entities, Surgical Events and Risk
 - B. Obligate waveform Analysis Localization and Identification
 - C. Advanced troubleshooting techniques specific complex spinal cases
 - D. Alarm Criteria and Reporting Changes
 - E. ACNS Guidelines
 - F. Complex Spine Specific Electrical safety techniques - Safety protocols relevant to all modalities
 - G. Risks associated with specific disorders/surgical procedures/patient positioning
 - H. Surgery specific monitoring protocols
 - I. Atypical electrode placement
 - J. Evoked potentials, motor evoked potentials, D-Waves, spinal cord mapping, NAPs, DNEP, and EMG correlates of clinical entities
 - K. Effects of drugs/anesthetic agents on recordings - Anesthetic Effects and Physiological Effects
 - L. Modality specific waveforms
 - M. Stimulation parameters for each modality
- III. Post-Operative Phase.....5%**
 - A. IOM Post-operative Outcomes
 - B. Postoperative Concerns/Care Complex Spine-Specific.

Content Outline (continued)

IV. Ethics.....5%

- A. HIPAA
- B. ABRET Code of Ethics
- C. Regulatory Requirements

Sample Questions

1. Compared to the myogenic motor evoked responses, the D- wave responses:
 - A. Are more sensitive to detect cord ischemia
 - B. Are better suited to detect unilateral motor pathway compromise
 - C. Can be produced by single pulse transcranial stimulation
 - D. Need temporal summation of corticospinal volleys for generation

2. A surgeon attempts direct stimulation of spinal cord motor tracts for monitoring motor responses from muscles during surgery. At the same time as muscle responses, neurogenic responses were unexpectedly recorded in sural nerve. Which of the following explains this finding?
 - A. Sural nerve is a mixed sensory and motor nerve
 - B. Sural nerve is a pure motor nerve
 - C. Antidromic sensory potentials from spinal cord stimulation
 - D. Volume conduction from motor to sensory tracts in spinal cord

3. Which of the following is true about astrocytomas in comparison with ependymomas, in spinal cord:
 - A. Astrocytomas are the most common intramedullary spinal cord tumor in adults
 - B. Astrocytomas are centrally located
 - C. Astrocytomas are more infiltrative
 - D. Astrocytomas are more common in lumbar region

4. During the removal of intramedullary spinal cord tumor, after dorsal myelotomy, while the surgeon is retracting the dorsal columns, the focus of neuromonitoring is on:
 - A. Somatosensory evoked potentials monitoring
 - B. D-wave monitoring
 - C. Spontaneous EMG monitoring
 - D. Triggered EMG responses

ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS: 1. C, 2. C, 3. C, 4. A

References

The following references, or recent editions of the following, may be of use in preparing for the examination. The list does not attempt to include all acceptable material, nor is it suggested that the CNIM Specialist in IOM Complex Spine Examination (CNIM-CS) questions are necessarily based on these references.

Highly Recommended References

Aatif M. Husain MD, 2015, A Practical Approach to Neurophysiologic Intraoperative Monitoring 2nd Edition. Demos Medical Publishing, LLC.

C. J. Pace (2020). Monitoring and mapping of the spinal cord. Principles of Neurophysiological Assessment, Mapping and Monitoring. Springer Nature Switzerland.

Marc R Nuwer (2009). Intraoperative Monitoring of Neural Function. Elsevier.

Mirela V. Simon (2019). Intraoperative Neurophysiology: A Comprehensive Guide to Monitoring and Mapping, Second Edition. Demos Medical Publication.

S. F. Davis & A. D. Kaye: Principles of Neurophysiological Assessment, Mapping and Monitoring; Second edition. Springer.

Stephen G. Waxman (2020) in Clinical Neuroanatomy 29th Edition McGraw Hill Education

Vedran Deletis, et al. (2020). Neurophysiology in Neurosurgery: A Modern Approach. Elsevier, Academic Press.

Additional Supplementary References

ABRET Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice

American Academy of Neurology, American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (joint guidelines). Evidence-Based Guideline Update: Intraoperative Spinal Monitoring with Somatosensory and Transcranial Motor Evoked Potentials (2012). (www.acns.org)

American Clinical Neurophysiology Society Guidelines in Evoked Potentials (2006), and in Intraoperative Monitoring (2016). (www.acns.org)

Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations. "National Patient Safety Goals"(updated annually) www.jointcommission.org

Paul D. Mongan and Vikas V. Patel (2017) 'Posterior Cervical Spine Surgery' in Antoun Koht et. al. Monitoring the Nervous System for Anesthesiologists and Other Health Care Professionals 2nd Edition. Springer Inc.

Ronald Leppanen (2017) 'The Use of Reflex Responses for IOM' in Antoun Kout et al. Monitoring the nervous system for anesthesiologists and other healthcare professionals. Springer international publishing

Additional reference materials maybe obtained by contacting ASET - The Neurodiagnostic Society
www.aset.org

Scoring

The Board set the passing standard as the number of test questions it determines to be necessary for candidates to answer correctly in order to be considered at least minimally competent. This method focuses on the particular test that is being administered. Different forms of an examination are matched for difficulty and content coverage. This comprehensive approach makes use of information about the performance of similar groups in the past.

ABRET is concerned with reporting only valid scores. On rare occasions, misconduct or circumstances beyond the individual's control may render a score invalid. If doubts are raised about a score because of these or other circumstances, ABRET reserves the right to cancel any examination score if, in the sole opinion of ABRET, there is adequate reason to question its validity.

Report of Results

At the end of the examination, candidates will receive an email with a link to retrieve an **UNOFFICIAL** test result prior to leaving the testing center. If you do not receive this email, please check your spam folder, and then call 800-741-0934.

Approximately 4 – 6 weeks following examination date, candidates will receive an email when the **OFFICIAL** test result has been uploaded into their ABRET Certemy account. Candidates will be notified by PTC via email when score reports are available online. Scores on the major areas of the examination and on the total examination will be reported and available online for only 30 days. Save a copy of your score report.

Candidates may request a Handscore Report of their exam results by completing the [PTC Handscore Request Form](#) and paying a \$25 fee.

* Please do not contact the ABRET office about your results until you receive your **OFFICIAL** test results. You will not be able to reapply until the OFFICIAL test results are in.

Examination Challenges

Candidates may comment in the appropriate section at the end of the examination about any test question or questions, test procedure, and/or the test itself. Alternatively, a candidate may submit a complaint in writing to the ABRET Executive Director no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after taking the examination. All challenges and complaints will receive ABRET's full attention. Comments regarding examination validity will be reviewed by the ABRET examination committee. Examination materials shall not be available for review by candidates.

Confidentiality

1. ABRET will release the individual test scores **ONLY** to the individual candidate. CAAHEP Program Directors will receive the results of their graduates included in the individual CAAHEP Program School Report.
2. From time to time, it may be necessary for the ABRET Executive Office and Board of Directors to disclose candidate information and/or scores. No material or information disclosed will be released to any unauthorized person.
3. Any questions concerning test results should be referred to ABRET or the Professional Testing Corporation.
4. ABRET provides ASET – The Neurodiagnostic Society with the names, addresses, and emails of passing candidates. Candidates may opt out by contacting ABRET.

Attainment of Credential

Eligible candidates who pass the CNIM Specialist in IOM Complex Spine Examination will be certified for a period of five years and will be authorized to use the CNIM -CS designation, subject to compliance with ABRET's Code of Ethics, rules, policies, and procedures, and standards of practice of ABRET. They will receive a time-limited Digital Certificate and be eligible for recertification after five years. If not recertified, they will no longer be permitted to use the CNIM-CS designation.

Purpose of Standards

ABRET has developed the *Code of Ethics* and the Grounds for Disciplinary Action to articulate standards of conduct required for eligibility of ABRET credentials, microcredentials, and continued credentialing of EEG, EP, CNIM, CLTM, CAP, CMEG, and NA-CLTM technologists. Maintenance of board certification will require adherence to these and other ABRET rules. Individuals who fail to meet these requirements may have their certification suspended or revoked. ABRET does not guarantee the job performance of any individual.

Code of Ethics & Standards of Practice

ABRET is a nonprofit credentialing board for Electroencephalographic (EEG) Technologists, Evoked Potential (EP) Technologists, Neurophysiologic Intraoperative Monitoring (CNIM) Technologists, Long Term Monitoring (CLTM) Technologists, Autonomic Professionals (CAP) and Magnetoencephalography (CMEG), NeuroAnalyst Long Term Monitoring (NA-CLTM) Technologist, and related microcredentials, and seeks to encourage, establish, and maintain the highest standards, traditions and principles of these technologies. ABRET Registered and Certified Technologists should recognize their responsibilities, not only to their patients, but also to society, to other healthcare professionals, and to themselves.

The following principles have been adopted by the Board of Directors in order to encourage personnel to aspire to the highest possible professional practice. An ABRET Registered technologist or Certified individual shall:

1. Do everything in his or her power to ensure that the current Guidelines of the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society are complied with in the department in which he or she works.
2. Preserve human dignity, respect patient's rights, and support the wellbeing of the patient under his or her care. The Registered or Certified technologist shall avoid discrimination against individuals on the basis of race, creed, religion, sex, age, and national origin.
3. Appreciate the importance of thoroughness in the performance of duty, compassion with patients, and the significance of the task she or she performs.
4. Preserve the confidentiality of medical and personal information of a patient.
5. Strive to remain abreast of current technology and to study and apply scientific advances in his or her specialty. Carry out his or her professional work in a competent and objective manner.
6. Abide by laws related to the profession and to general public health and safety and avoid dishonest, unethical, or illegal practices.
7. Refuse primary responsibility for interpretation of testing or monitoring of Electroencephalograms, Evoked Potentials, or Neurophysiologic Intraoperative Monitoring for purposes of clinical diagnosis and treatment. Individuals who are licensed or otherwise authorized by practice standards to provide interpretation are excluded.
8. Be truthful, forthcoming, and cooperative in his or her dealings with ABRET.
9. Be in continuous compliance with ABRET's rules (as amended from time to time by ABRET).
10. Respect ABRET's intellectual property rights.
11. Upon suspension or withdrawal of certification, the certificant shall discontinue the use of all claims to certification that contain any reference to ABRET, and to return any certificates issued by ABRET.

Quick Tips After Achieving Your Credential

* It is important for ABRET to maintain your correct name and contact information. Please promptly notify the ABRET Executive Office of an address and/or name change by completing [ABRET's name and address change form](#). Although it is your responsibility to know when your credential expires, we will remind you via email through your ABRET [Certemy account](#) when your credential needs to be renewed.

Please make sure your ABRET Certemy account is up to date.

Violations Reporting Requirements

If conduct has occurred that may be grounds for disciplinary action under the Violations to Standards of Practice and Disciplinary Process policy, then ABRET may place an application on hold while reviewing the matter. These will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

A criminal conviction may be grounds to deny or otherwise limit eligibility. Convictions of this nature include (but are not limited to) felonies involving rape, sexual abuse of a patient or child, and actual or threatened use of a weapon or violence. If a conviction resulted in a sentence that includes incarceration, then the individual is ineligible while in confinement (RUL-26).

1. Grounds for Disciplinary Action. ABRET may deny, suspend, revoke, or take other action regarding an application or certification if an individual is not in compliance with this Disciplinary Policy. Grounds for disciplinary action include (but are not limited to):

- A. Ineligibility for certification, regardless of when the ineligibility is discovered;
- B. An irregular event in connection with an ABRET examination including (but not limited to) copying answers, copying examination materials, and causing a disruption in the testing area;
- C. Providing fraudulent or misleading information;
- D. Unauthorized possession or misuse of ABRET credentials, examinations, and other intellectual property;
- E. Misrepresentation of certification status;
- F. Failure to provide requested information in a timely manner;
- G. Failure to inform ABRET of changes or adverse actions;
- H. Gross negligence or willful misconduct in professional work;
- I. Accepting primary responsibility for interpretation of testing or monitoring for purposes of clinical diagnosis and treatment (Individuals who are licensed or otherwise authorized by practice standards to provide interpretation are excluded.);
- J. Failure to maintain a current professional credential as required by the jurisdiction in which the individual practices (this may include a license, certificate, or registration);
- K. The conviction of, plea of guilty to, or plea of no contest (“nolo contendere”) to a felony or misdemeanor related to public health and safety or the profession;
- L. Disciplinary action by a licensing board or professional organization other than ABRET; and
- M. Other failures to maintain continuous compliance with ABRET standards, policies, and procedures.

2. Sanctions.

- A. ABRET may impose one or more of the following sanctions for a violation of this Disciplinary Policy:
 - Denial or suspension of eligibility;
 - Denial of certification;
 - Revocation of certification;
 - Non-renewal of certification;
 - Suspension of certification;
 - Reprimand;
 - Probation;
 - Notification of other legitimately interested parties;
 - Or other corrective action (RUL-8).

Candidates or certificants may appeal the decision of the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee by submitting a written appeals statement within 30 days, according to ABRET’s policies.

Each candidate must affirm that the information provided in the Application is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. Each candidate further agrees to hold ABRET and its sponsoring organizations blameless from any claim for damages as a result of any action it may take in connection with this Application, the credentialing examination, or the results there of.