



Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification®

H A N D B O O K

Candidate Handbook and Application
for Initial Certification & Recertification



www.boardofaudiology.org

Specialty, Expertise, Knowledge.

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ABA Board Certification in Audiology, and specialty certification in pediatric audiology or cochlear implants, are high marks of distinction in the profession. Certificants have the education and experience needed to pass a rigorous exam that earns them the right to display their ABA credentials to patients, colleagues, peers, and the community.



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Welcome to the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification

The American Board of Audiology® (ABA) is pleased to welcome you to the certification process. The Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification® (PASC) recognizes those professionals who demonstrate the knowledge and commitment to the highest standards of ethical and professional practice in serving the pediatric audiology sector, birth through 18 years of age.

Congratulations on taking an important personal and professional step by pursuing certification. As a professional audiologist, you deserve to be recognized and appreciated for what you do. Like most professionals you want to become better at it. You look for ongoing meaningful professional development and practical ways to evaluate your own work that will help you grow. This is one reason the PASC credential was created.

PASC: Professional Mark

Audiologists who meet the eligibility requirements and achieve the passing score on the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification (PASC) examination will be awarded the designation *Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification* and are entitled to use that designation, or the PASC mark, with their name on letterhead, business cards, social media sites, and all forms of address.

Audiologists who are also Board Certified in Audiology, meet the eligibility requirements and achieve the passing score on the PASC examination, will be awarded the designation of *Board Certified in Audiology with Specialty Certification in Pediatric Audiology* or may use *Board Certified in Audiology, PASC*.

Congratulations on taking an important personal and professional step by pursuing certification.





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Mission

ABA Mission

The ABA creates, administers, and promotes rigorous credentialing programs that elevate professional practice and advance patient care.

ABA Vision

ABA credentials are earned by all leading audiologists, respected by other healthcare providers, and trusted by patients.

Practice

The ABA does not determine who shall or shall not engage in the practice of audiology. That a person is not certified does not indicate that s/he is unqualified to perform audiology responsibilities, only that such person has not fulfilled the ABA requirements or has not applied for certification. Additionally, one need not be a member of any particular professional membership organization to obtain an ABA certification.

Independent Testing Agency

The ABA contracts with Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) to assist in the administration, scoring and analysis of the ABA's PASC Examination. HumRRO, headquartered in Alexandria, VA, is a leading provider of licensing and certification examinations for professional organizations.

ABA and their psychometric firm, Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO), made every effort to present all policies and direction in this handbook clearly. In the event clarification is required, contact ABA at 1.800.881.5410 or aba@audiology.org. Please indicate in the subject line "PASC Examination." Neither ABA nor HumRRO is responsible for information that is not understood by the reader or obtained from any source other than ABA or HumRRO.

Nondiscrimination Policy

ABA does not discriminate against any person on the basis of color, ethnic ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, medical condition or physical disability.



One need not be a member of any particular professional membership organization to obtain an ABA certification.

Eligibility Requirements

In order to earn the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification, you must first submit a written application that meets the requirements in each of four (4) eligibility categories. In addition, you must receive a passing score on the PASC examination; you must agree to uphold the ABA ethical standards; and you must pay all appropriate fees. **Candidates must have met all requirements at the time they sit for the examination.**

In order to earn the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification, you must first submit a written application that meets the requirements in each of four (4) eligibility categories.

Category 1: Education

- ▲ An applicant must hold a graduate degree in audiology granted from a regionally accredited institution.

Documentation

- An official transcript mailed directly from the educational institution, in a sealed envelope, to the ABA.

Category 2: Licensure

- ▲ An applicant must hold a current, valid license in audiology.

Documentation

- A copy of your current, valid license to practice audiology.

Category 3: Professional Experience

- ▲ An applicant must have two (2) years of post-degree, full-time (2,000) hours paid professional experience as an audiologist. Externship hours are ineligible.
- ▲ **In addition, an applicant must establish:**
 - a. 550 direct pediatric post-graduate patient contact hours within a two-year period during the past five years. Direct patient contact may include the following areas: screening and diagnostic evaluation, counseling (patient and family) and habilitation/rehabilitation.
 - b. 50 post-graduate hours of case management of pediatric cases within a two-year period during the past five years. Case management may include involvement in team meetings, school visits and interfacing with other agencies involved in pediatric patient care.

Documentation

- A copy of your current curriculum vitae.
- *Form 1: Patient and Case Management Hours*

Category 4: Professional References

- ▲ An applicant must provide two (2) professional references.

Documentation

- Two (2) professional references, one of which must be from a supervisor familiar with your work in the area of pediatric audiology verifying the number of hours worked and eligibility for the specialty credential. *Should an applicant be the supervisor in a practice setting, the applicant's direct supervisor, i.e. MD, practice manager, etc., may provide the second professional reference.*
- *Form 2: Professional References*

Examination Design and Policies

The ABA Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification (PASC) examination is designed to test a well-defined body of knowledge representative of professional practice in pediatric audiology. Successful completion of the certification examination verifies broad-based knowledge in the discipline being tested.

No examination or certification program can guarantee results or the quality of care provided by certificants. The certification examination tests only the individual's familiarity with the subject matter at the time of the administration of the examination.

The content of the PASC examination was defined by a national Job Task Analysis study. The study involved surveying thousands of pediatric audiology practitioners to identify tasks that are performed routinely and considered important to competent practice. Examinations are developed through a combined effort of qualified subject-matter experts and testing professionals who construct the examinations in accordance with the ABA Pediatric Audiology Examination Practice Analysis content outline.

The PASC Job Task Analysis study surveyed thousands of pediatric audiology practitioners.

Examination Structure

The PASC examination is comprised of 100 pre-selected items plus 20 additional questions that are beta tested for future PASC examinations. The exam consists of multiple-choice items and multiple-response items. All questions have four response options. Candidates will be permitted two and a half (2.5) hours to complete the examination.

Examination Dates and Locations

Please see the ABA website www.boardofaudiology.org for current dates and locations.

Exam Environment

The PASC is administered as a paper and pencil exam. As with any group meeting, space and temperature can vary. ABA strongly suggests dressing in layers that can be added or removed as the climate in the room dictates.

Both ABA and the assessment center make every effort to locate the exam in a quiet area. There are occasions when external noise such as a lawn mower or general corridor traffic cannot be controlled. If you are particularly sensitive with noise, or are concerned with your ability to concentrate, you may wish to consider bringing ear plugs.

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

The ABA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and strives to ensure that no individual with a disability is deprived of the opportunity to take the examination solely by reason of that disability. A candidate with a disability may request special accommodations. The test administrator will provide reasonable accommodations for candidates with disabilities. Verification of disability and statement of the specific assistance necessary must be included using *Forms 3 and 4* in this handbook and submitted with the application by the postmark deadline.

Failure to Report for an Examination

If a candidate fails to appear for their testing appointment on the date and time specific in their admission letter, and does not cancel or reschedule the testing appointment at least 72 hours in advance of the testing appointment **AND** does not notify the ABA in writing of the emergency event (postmarked within 10 business days of the event) **ALL** fees are forfeited. Candidates in this situation can reactivate their authorization to test for this amount without resubmitting a new application.

Inclement Weather or Emergency

In the event of inclement weather or unforeseen emergencies on the day of an examination, the ABA will determine whether circumstances warrant the cancellation, and subsequent rescheduling, of an examination. The examination would be rescheduled at a later date and time.

Candidates may contact the ABA at 1.800.881.5410 or aba@audiology.org prior to the examination to determine if any test centers/sites are closed. Every attempt is made to administer examinations as scheduled; however, should an examination be canceled at a test center, all scheduled candidates will receive notification following the cancellation regarding a rescheduled examination date or reapplication procedures.

Deferment Policy

If you have been accepted as an exam candidate, but cannot take the written examination, you may request that you be allowed to sit for the examination on the next scheduled examination date. You may defer taking the examination only one year from the original examination date. Your request must be received in writing at least 21 days prior to the examination date. Your examination and application fees are valid for one year from the original examination date. After one year, a new application, documentation, and appropriate fees must be resubmitted.

Translations

The Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification Examination is currently offered only in English. No translation into foreign languages is offered at this time.

Admission to the Test Center

Approximately one week before the examination date, the Test Administrator will mail all scheduled candidates an examination admission letter indicating the exact address of the test center. Any candidate who has not received an admission letter at least one week before the examination date should contact the ABA at +1.800.881.5410 or aba@audiology.org.

On Exam Day

The time, date and location of the examination are included in the admission letter. Candidates must be on time; NO EXCEPTIONS.

All candidates should report to the assigned test center at least 15 minutes prior to the testing. This is to allow time for identification verification and check-in procedures.

Candidates who arrive after the examination booklets have been distributed will NOT be admitted and will NOT be permitted to take the examination. Pencils will be supplied at the test center. No scratch paper or any other materials will be allowed. No study materials may be brought to the test center and no unauthorized visitors will be allowed.

Identification

To gain admission to the test center and take the examination you **must provide two forms of identification, both of which must match your name as it appears on the candidate roster.** One ID must be a current legal identification bearing your photograph and signature.

Legal identification includes:

- driver's license, government identity card, passport or military identification. [Credit cards, employment badges, student ID cards or club membership cards are NOT acceptable for the legal identification, although they may be used as the second form of ID.]
- The second ID must verify your signature and name. Every candidate is required to sign his/her name on the sign-in roster when entering the test center. Candidates are prohibited from misrepresenting their identities or falsifying information to obtain admission to the examination.

Examination Time Limit

A maximum of two and a half (2.5) hours is allocated for candidates to take the examination. Candidates may wear a watch to help pace themselves if they so desire. The examination will be given only on the published examination date for which you registered and only at the time indicated in the admission letter.

All candidates should report to the assigned test center at least 15 minutes prior to the testing.

The ABA maintains examination administration and security standards that are designed to assure that all candidates are provided the same opportunity to demonstrate their abilities.

Rules for the Examination

1. No eating, drinking or smoking will be allowed.
2. No calculators will be allowed.
3. No cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices are allowed in the examination room.
4. No questions concerning the content of the examination may be asked during the examination.
5. You will be provided a Candidate Comment Sheet where you may comment on any question on the examination. Comments will be reviewed, but individual responses to question comments cannot be provided.
6. The Test Administrator may dismiss a candidate from the examination for any of the following reasons:
 - the candidate's admission to the examination is unauthorized;
 - the candidate creates a disturbance, is abusive or otherwise uncooperative;
 - the candidate gives or receives help or is suspected of doing so;
 - the candidate attempts to record examination questions or make notes;
 - the candidate attempts to take the examination for someone else; or
 - the candidate is observed with study material.
7. Be sure to answer each question on the examination, even the ones for which you are uncertain. Avoid leaving any questions unanswered. There is no penalty for guessing.

Security / Breach of Confidentiality

The ABA maintains examination administration and security standards that are designed to assure that all candidates are provided the same opportunity to demonstrate their abilities. Test centers are monitored by trained examination proctors. Any candidate who gives or receives assistance from another candidate during the examination will be required to turn in his or her examination materials immediately and leave the testing center. In these circumstances, the candidate's examination will not be processed and the situation will be reported to the ABA.

The performance of all examinees is monitored and may be analyzed statistically for purposes of detecting fraud. The ABA and testing agency reserve the right to cancel or withhold any examination scores if, in their opinion, there is adequate reason to question their validity. Any individual who removes or attempts to remove examination material or information from the test center will be prosecuted.

Examinees that violate security will not have their examinations processed. On exam day, examinees will be asked to sign *Form 5: Non-Disclosure Agreement*. By signing this agreement you indicate that you will not discuss the contents of the test with anyone during or after the test administration. A breach of this agreement could result in disciplinary action.

Exam Results

Exam candidates will receive their exam score within approximately six (6) weeks following the exam administration. When you receive your score report, it will reflect either “pass” or “fail.” It will also include the functional areas covered by the examination, relative weights (i.e., the number of questions on the test related to each area), and bar graphs indicating your relative performance in each area. This information is provided as feedback to help you understand your performance within the major content categories. Your pass/fail status is determined by your overall raw score on 100 items. To assure confidentiality, no examination results will be given by telephone, e-mail or fax.

Pass/Fail Score Determination

The methodology used to set the minimum passing score is the modified-Angoff method, applied during the performance of a Passing Point Study by a panel of subject matter experts in the field. The experts evaluate each question on the examination to determine how many correct answers are necessary to demonstrate the knowledge required to pass the PASC Examination. Your ability to pass the examination depends on the knowledge you display, not on the performance of other candidates.

Passing scores might vary slightly for different versions of the test. To assure fairness, slight variations in difficulty level are addressed by adjusting the passing score up or down.

If You Do Not Pass the Examination

If you do not pass the examination, you may reapply for a subsequent examination. If you fail the examination on two occasions, you will be required to show proof of courses or seminars taken to remedy deficiencies. Repeat candidates must submit a new application and a reapplicant examination fee.

Scores Canceled by ABA or Test Administrator

The ABA and Test Administrator are responsible for the integrity of the scores they report. Misconduct by a candidate may cause a score to be suspect. The ABA and Test Administrator are committed to rectifying such discrepancies as expeditiously as possible. The ABA may void examination results if, upon investigation, violation of its regulations is discovered.

Duplicate Score Report

Candidates may purchase additional copies of their score reports at a cost of \$25 per copy. Requests must be submitted to the Test Administrator, sent to ABA headquarters, in writing, within ninety (90) days after the examination. The request must include the candidate’s name, mailing address, date of examination and authorization signature.

Your ability to pass the examination depends on the knowledge you display, not on the performance of other candidates.

Hand Scoring Requests

Candidates who do not pass the examination may request a manual verification of the computer scoring. Requests for manual rescoring must be submitted to ABA in writing along with a \$25 hand scoring fee. Requests must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the examination date. Requests mailed after that date will not be honored. The testing agency will mail a notice of the results of the hand score to the candidate within four weeks of receipt of the request. This process involves inspection and scoring the answer sheet by hand to ensure no stray pencil marks or other conditions have interfered with the computer scanning. Due to the high degree of accuracy of scanning and scoring, the ABA does not encourage candidates to request hand scoring. The testing agency randomly samples and hand scores answer sheets of candidates who score within one point of passing before results are released as a quality control measure. It is extremely doubtful that any examination score will change from “fail” to “pass” as a result of hand scoring. In the unlikely event the score changes, the hand score will be final. The ABA will be notified of any change from the original results report.

Suspension or Disciplinary Procedures

1. Once approved for ABA Certification, one’s certification is subject to suspension or revocation by the *Examination, Eligibility and Recertification Committee* for any of the following reasons:
 - Violation of the ABA code of ethics
 - Revocation or suspension of a state license or registration held by an audiologist who is certified by the ABA
 - Breach of exam confidentiality
 - Any act or omission deemed prejudicial to the profession of audiology.
2. No certification shall be revoked unless the following procedures are followed:
 - a copy of the charges against the certificant and the information concerning the event or events from which such charges arise is sent by registered mail to the individual.
 - Such a notice shall state that no action will be taken against the certificant until after a hearing, unless certificant fails to request a hearing or offer a defense within 45 days.
 - The certificant is given at least 45 days to prepare a defense.
 - A hearing is held on such charges before a designated panel, at which time the person is given a full opportunity to be heard in his or her own defense, including the right to be represented by counsel, the right to cross-examine witnesses appearing and to examine documents material to said charges. Accommodation support will be provided to eligible individuals.
 - The panel shall initially determine whether or not certification should be suspended or revoked. The initial determination of the panel, including all evidence submitted at the hearing, shall be reviewed by the ABA Board of Governors. Upon review, the ABA Board of Governors may affirm, reverse, modify or remand the original determination of the panel.
 - Written notice of such decision shall be issued in writing to the certificant.

Eligibility Policy

The ABA conducts a preliminary review of each application and documentation for certification. The ABA then submits each application to the *Eligibility, Reinstatement and Recertification Review Committee (ERR)* to make a determination regarding each applicant's eligibility for the PASC examination.

Incomplete Application

Carefully review your application before submission. An incomplete application will cause a delay in processing which may possibly preclude you from sitting for the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification examination on the date for which you have applied.

Changes After Application is Submitted

The ABA must be notified in writing 21 days prior to your examination date of any change in name, address or telephone number that occurs after the application has been submitted. Notice of change received less than 21 days before the examination date will not guarantee that the examination admission letter or examination results will reach you or the new address. Neither ABA nor the testing administrator is responsible for trying to locate you.

Appeals Policy

Should an applicant disagree with a decision of the *Eligibility, Reinstatement and Recertification Review Committee (ERR)*, the applicant may appeal to the *ABA Appeals Committee*.

No Appeal Permitted

Individuals cannot appeal (1) the passing score or actions taken in setting a passing score; (2) actions taken against an individual's certification status as a result of a lack of valid registered audiology license; (3) establishment of eligibility criteria; (4) the examination or other measurement tool or individual test items; and (5) test content validity.

Appealable Issue

An adverse certification decision may be appealed on the grounds that the ABA did not properly apply specified certification eligibility criteria or the decision was based on a factual error that affected the outcome. Adverse certification decisions include: denial of eligibility for initial certification, denial of certification, suspension of certification or revocation of certification.

Appeal Procedure: Initiating the Appeal

An individual wishing to appeal an adverse decision, must submit a Notice of Appeal to the ABA Managing Director, within 21 calendar days of receipt of the adverse decision.

The Notice of Appeal will include:

- a. The grounds for appeal;
- b. The envelope from ABA showing the postmark of the adverse decision;
- c. Any new or additional information to be considered; and
- d. Mailing address and email address where Applicant can receive communications regarding the appeal.

FAILURE TO FILE THE NOTICE WITHIN THE 21 DAY TIME PERIOD WILL RESULT IN DISMISSAL OF THE APPEAL.

The ABA must be notified in writing 21 days prior to your examination date of any change in name, address or telephone number that occurs after the application has been submitted.

Certification Pending Appeal

An individual who appeals from a decision to suspend certification, revoke certification or deny recertification will retain the certification held at the time the appeal was filed.

Review of Appeal

The *Appeals Committee* will conduct and complete the appeal within 45 days after receipt of the Notice of Appeal. The *Appeals Committee*, in its discretion, may extend the time for completing the appeal.

The *Appeals Committee* will either affirm or overrule the decision from which the individual appeals. The written decision of the *Appeals Committee*, including a statement of the reasons for its decision, is reported to the individual and the ABA. The decision of the *Appeals Committee* is final and binding upon the individual, the ABA and all other persons.

Communication

Written communication to the *Appeals Committee* must be sent in a manner that confirms receipt (e.g. certified mail with return receipt requested or express mail with signature or delivery confirmation required), and addressed to:

American Board of Audiology
11480 Commerce Park Drive, Suite 220
Reston, VA 20191 USA

Written communication to the individual may be sent by email, regular U.S. mail or in a manner that confirms receipt (e.g., e-mail, certified mail, express mail with signature required) at the address indicated on the Notice of Appeal.

Recertification – Maintenance

All ABA certifications are valid for a limited period of time. The Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification (PASC) is valid for a period of 3 years and continuing education is required for recertification.

Recertification is required of all certificants at the end of their initial threeyear certification period. Notice of recertification will be sent to you approximately 6 months prior to the expiration of your certification. This notice will be sent to your last email address on file.

The continuing education component is designed to ensure that audiologists continue to expand their knowledge base in audiology. All applicants for recertification must obtain 60 clock hours of continuing education (6.0 CEUs).

The 60 clock hours must include the following:

- 3 of the 60 hours in professional ethics
- 15 of the 60 hours in Tier 1 and/or Tier 1 Interactive hours, professional level courses of a minimum of three hours' duration
- 30 of the 60 hours must pertain to pediatric audiology — they may be Tier I, Tier I Interactive or regular hours.

If continuing education requirements are not met within the threeyear period, your certification will no longer be valid and your status will be changed to “lapsed”— you may not use the term PASC or logo with credentials and your name will be removed from the list of ABA certificants on the ABA Website.

Inactive Status

In cases of temporary disability or extraordinary circumstances resulting in extreme hardship, an ABA certificant can petition for inactive status of their certification. The individual is required to notify the ABA offices in writing of the request and the inactive status for the length of the temporary disability not to exceed 12 months. The ABA specifically reserves the right to independently corroborate underlying the request. Certificants may not use the term PASC during inactive status.

The PASC is valid for a period of 3 years and continuing education is required for recertification.

Exam Preparation

Examination Content

The content of the exam is shown in the test blueprint below (see Table 1). The breakdown of the exam is shown by content dimension and the number of scored items on the test in each dimension.

Table 1. Audiology Pediatric Test Blueprint

Content Dimension	Percentage
1. Laws and Regulations	10%
2. General Knowledge about Hearing and Hearing Loss	20%
3. Child Development	9%
4. Screening and Assessment Procedures	21%
5. Counseling	9%
6. Communication Enhancement Technology	16%
7. Habilitation/Rehabilitation Strategies, Educational Supports	15%

The detailed test blueprint is shown in Table 2 below. Specific knowledge areas included in each content dimension are indicated.

Table 2. Specific Knowledge Areas on the Audiology Pediatric Test

Laws And Regulations	10%
1 The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	
2 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) laws and regulations	
3 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and regulations	
4 Section 504 laws and regulations	
5 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) laws and regulations	
6 Newborn hearing screening policies and programs (e.g., state EHDI requirements)	
7 American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards and calibration requirements	
8 American Academy of Audiology (AAA), Joint Commission on Infant Hearing (JCIH) and American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) guidelines	
9 Pertinent American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations (e.g. hearing screening, audiologic evaluation for children suspected of being on the autism spectrum)	
10 Pertinent Joint Commission guidelines (e.g., sedation, safety)	
11 Local, state and federal requirements (e.g., licensure, health, education) including reporting requirements	
12 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)	
13 Infection control protocols	
14 Professional organizational codes of ethics (e.g., AAA, ASHA, ABA)	

General Knowledge About Hearing And Hearing Loss**20%**

- 15 The anatomy and physiology of the head, neck, ear and central nervous system (CNS)
- 16 Type, degree and configuration of hearing loss and implications
- 17 Auditory processing disorders
- 18 Auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder
- 19 The role of ear canal acoustics in assessment and management
- 20 Embryological development
- 21 Disorders, syndromes and conditions that may affect hearing (e.g., canal atresia, otitis media, Mondini malformation, and kernicterus)
- 22 Genetics as it relates to hearing loss
- 23 Risk indicators for hearing loss
- 24 Vestibular problems in children and associated risk factors
- 25 Pseudohypoacusis
- 26 Tinnitus and hyperacusis
- 27 Noise-induced hearing loss and prevention strategies
- 28 Environmental acoustics and impact on communication
- 29 Phonetics and acoustical properties of speech
- 30 Pharmacology (e.g., ototoxicity, monitoring protocols)
- 31 Comprehensive medical examination components for hearing loss (e.g., otology, imaging, lab studies, EKG)
- 32 The roles of and criteria for referral to multi-disciplinary healthcare providers (e.g., otolaryngologist, geneticist, neurologist, ophthalmologist, speech language pathologist, medical home)

Child Development**9%**

- 33 Auditory, speech, and language milestones
- 34 Stages of child development (e.g., motor, cognitive, social and emotional)
- 35 The impact of communication disorders on psychosocial development
- 36 The impact of hearing loss on speech and language development
- 37 Bilingual language development
- 38 Common signs and symptoms of developmental disorders (e.g. autism spectrum disorder) and available screening tools

Screening And Assessment Procedures**21%**

- 39 General screening principles
- 40 Hearing screening techniques and protocols for various populations (e.g., newborn, preschool, school-aged)
- 41 Comprehensive pediatric case history components
- 42 Test battery selection and cross-check principle
- 43 Techniques to involve the family in diagnostic test procedures
- 44 Principles of evoked responses and electrophysiological testing procedures and limitations
- 45 Age-appropriate behavioral audiometric procedures and limitations
- 46 Age-appropriate measures of speech perception
- 47 Testing techniques for differential diagnosis (e.g., conductive, sensory, auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder, auditory processing disorder)
- 48 Testing procedures for children with developmental delays and/or medical challenges
- 49 Test and test battery interpretation
- 50 Test result implications
- 51 Age-appropriate follow-up timelines for assessment and management of hearing loss
- 52 Follow-up procedures for high-risk populations (e.g., fluctuating, progressive or delayed-onset hearing loss)
- 53 Data collection and analysis to support clinical decision making and practice management for screening and assessment procedures

Counseling	9%
54 The social/emotional aspects of childhood hearing disorders	
55 How emotions associated with grief impact acceptance of diagnosis and treatment plan	
56 Child/parent/caregiver learning styles including the impact of family's culture	
57 Family empowerment as a key component of family-centered care	
58 Family/patient rights (e.g., to choose communication options and services)	
59 Personal adjustment counseling including patient- and family-centered counseling	
60 Conveying test results	
61 Referral indicators for mental health services	

Communication Enhancement Technology	16%
62 Candidacy criteria for nonsurgical amplification devices (e.g., hearing aids, HATs)	
63 Selection criteria for hearing aids and HATs including type, style, and compatibility with other devices	
64 Features and signal processing selection (e.g., WDRC, bandwidth, directional microphones, feedback and noise management systems)	
65 Age-appropriate programming options for different listening environments	
66 Wireless (e.g., FM, infrared and Bluetooth) and induction transmission technology and applications	
67 Prescriptive fitting methods	
68 Verification procedures (e.g., real-ear measures, RECD)	
69 Device orientation and training	
70 Validation procedures and outcome measures	
71 Ear mold materials and styles	
72 Ear mold impression-taking techniques	
73 Signaling and alerting devices	
74 Augmentative communication devices	
75 Data collection and analysis to support clinical decision making and practice management for screening and assessment procedures for communication enhancement technology	
76 Candidacy and referral criteria for surgically-implanted devices (i.e., cochlear implant)	
77 Candidacy and referral criteria for surgically-implanted devices (i.e., bone conduction)	

Habilitation/Rehabilitation Strategies, Educational Support	15%
78 Informational and advocacy resources (e.g., written and web-based sources, parent and peer support groups including financial and social assistance)	
79 Candidacy for habilitative/rehabilitative services	
80 Modes of communication and communication continuum	
81 Early intervention service options (e.g., natural learning opportunities in everyday activities, center-based services)	
82 School-aged placement options (e.g., general education, special education, school for the deaf)	
83 Educational service delivery models (e.g., consultative, itinerant, direct instruction)	
84 Communication access accommodations (e.g., proximity, noise reduction, language facilitators, interpreters, note takers, captioning)	
85 Strategies that promote auditory/linguistic/literacy development	
86 Inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary team approaches	
87 Personal responsibility and self-advocacy	
88 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) process and Individualized Family Service Plan/Individual Education Plan (IFSP/IEP) development (e.g., multi-disciplinary planning and implementation, parent participation)	
89 Resources (e.g., itinerant teacher of the hearing impaired, educational audiologist) and strategies (e.g., team teaching, in-services) for implementing educational recommendations	

Sample Examination Questions

Following are sample questions in the same style and similar content as will be on the examination. Answers are provided below.

Sample Multiple Choice Items

1. A two-month old was referred to you because of failed ABR newborn hearing screening at the birth hospital. The most appropriate diagnostic test would be:
 - A. BOA
 - B. VRA
 - C. OAE
 - D. ABR
2. You have identified a five-year-old as having severe unilateral sensorineural hearing loss. As you discuss potential impact of this hearing loss on the child's educational development you would tell the parents:
 - A. With preferential seating the hearing loss will probably have no impact the child's educational development.
 - B. A hearing aid for the affected ear would be the best strategy for alleviating problems that the hearing loss may cause.
 - C. A much higher risk for educational difficulties exists for this child than for children with two normal hearing ears.
 - D. A binaural FM system would be the best strategy for alleviating problems that the hearing loss may cause.
3. A ten-year-old child with bilateral moderate sensorineural hearing loss has been referred to you for case management and hearing aid fitting. Your primary objective for the hearing aid fitting is:
 - A. Selecting a hearing aid color acceptable to child and parents to encourage acceptance and usage.
 - B. Selecting hearing aids that will allow the child full access to the speech spectrum.
 - C. Selecting hearing aids that will accommodate the greatest variety of HATs.
 - D. Selecting hearing aids that you use with a history of having very low maintenance requirements.

Sample Questions – Answer Key

1. D
2. C
3. B

The ABA does not intend the list to be exhaustive or to imply endorsement of these specific references, nor are the examination questions necessarily taken from these sources.

Sample Multiple Response Item

An 8-year-old child typically has been through which of Erickson's stages of psychosocial development (including the current stage)? Select all that apply.

- a. Identity vs. Role Confusion
- b. Autonomy vs. Shame
- c. Industry vs. Inferiority
- d. Trust vs. Mistrust

Answer: In this example, b, c, and d are all correct answers and should be marked.

Suggested Readings

The references listed below may prove helpful in the review of the subject matter areas included on the examination. The listing of these references is intended for use as a study aid only. The ABA does not intend the list to be exhaustive or to imply endorsement of these specific references, nor are the examination questions necessarily taken from these sources.

- ▲ AAA Clinical Practice Guideline: Diagnosis, Treatment and Management of Children and Adults with Central Auditory Processing Disorders
- ▲ AAA Clinical Practice Guidelines: Remote Microphone Hearing Assistance Technologies for Children and Youth from Birth to 21 Years
- ▲ AAA Pediatric Amplification Protocol
- ▲ AAA Pediatric Assessment and Treatment Clinical Practice Guidelines
- ▲ ASHA Pediatric Guidelines
- ▲ Assessment and Management of Central Auditory Processing Disorders in the Educational Setting from Science to Practice (2nd ed)
- ▲ Children with Hearing Impairment
- ▲ Clinical Management of Children with Cochlear Implants
- ▲ Comprehensive Handbook of Pediatric Audiology
- ▲ Counseling in Audiologic Practice
- ▲ Counseling Persons with Communication Disorders and Their Families (4th ed)
- ▲ EHDI Program Information
- ▲ Foundations of Pediatric Audiology
- ▲ Handbook of Auditory Evoked Responses
- ▲ Hearing in Children (5th ed)
- ▲ IDEA Advocacy for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- ▲ Infection Control in the Audiology Clinic
- ▲ JCIH Pediatric Guidelines
- ▲ Legal Rights: The Guide for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (5th ed)
- ▲ NCHAM Resource Guide for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
- ▲ Pediatric Audiological Medicine (2nd ed)
- ▲ Pediatric Audiology
- ▲ Rehabilitative Audiology: Children and Adults (3rd ed)
- ▲ Sound Field Amplification: Applications to Speech Perception and Classroom Acoustics (2nd ed)



FORM A: Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification Application

Applicant Category

New Applicant

I have enclosed a fully completed Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification application with all required forms and the appropriate application and examination fees. Forms that will be sent directly to the ABA with the required postmark, such as transcripts, must be denoted on the application.

- ▲ Transcript ▲ Form A: PASC Application ▲ Form 6: Demographic Information
- ▲ Copy of Audiology license ▲ Form 1: Patient & Case Management Hours ▲ Payment of Application Fee and Examination Fee
- ▲ Current Curriculum Vitae ▲ Form 2: Professional References (2)
- ▲ If applicable, ADA Forms 3 & 4

Examination Retake Applicant

The ABA has my fully completed Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification Examination application on file. The original application is valid for a one (1) year period.

I would like to take the following administration of the examination listed on the ABA website:

DATE	YEAR	LOCATION

I am requesting Special Accommodations.

Complete *Forms 3 & 4* included in this handbook and submit the required documentation.

Fees

Fees may be paid by credit card, cashiers check or money order made payable to ABA. All fees are subject to change and non-refundable.

PASC Certification Fees	Member	Non-Member
<i>All fees are due at the beginning of each three-year certification cycle.</i>	<i>American Academy of Audiology</i>	
Application Fee (Application received 60 days prior to exam)	\$100	\$140
Examination Fee	\$375	\$420
Three-Year Certification Fee (Due upon passing of exam)	\$345	\$345
Application Late Fee (Additional fee if application received 30-59 days prior to exams)	\$100	\$100

All fees must accompany the application. If payment is made by credit card, complete the following;

- VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Cardholder Name: _____

Credit Card Account #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Zip Code of Billing Address _____

Total Amount to be Charged: _____ Signature: _____

FORM A (continued): Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification Application



Signature

Sign and date in ink the statement below. Without a signature and date your application is **INCOMPLETE**.

This is to affirm that the information contained in this application and all submitted materials are true. I understand that submission of false or misleading information will be grounds for denial of certification and/or suspension or revocation of the opportunity to reapply for certification. I understand that if the information I or my professional references have submitted is found to be incomplete or inaccurate or not timely, my application may be rejected, my examination results may be delayed or voided and/or I may not be able to sit for the examination on my desired administration date. I certify that I agree to abide by regulations contained in this handbook as well as the Pediatric Audiology Certification Program contained in this handbook. I agree to be governed by the ABA Code of Ethics. I understand that the information gathered in the certification process may be used for statistical purposes and for evaluation of the certification program. I understand that ABA reserves the right to verify any or all information on this application and in the supporting materials and that any incorrect or misleading information may constitute grounds for rejection of my application, revocation or suspension of my certification, or other disciplinary action.

I specifically recognize the ABA as the sole and only judge of my qualifications to receive and retain a certification issued by the ABA. I agree to have my name and business address and other business contact information listed on the ABA website. I further agree to hold harmless individually and collectively the officers, directors, staff, members and volunteers of the ABA, its Pediatric Audiology Committee and the American Academy of Audiology, Inc. for any decision or action pursuant to their duties in connection with this application, the examination, the score or scores given with respect to this examination or certification. I specifically understand and agree that in the consideration of my application my ethical and professional standing will be reviewed and assessed by the ABA; that ABA may make inquiry of such persons as ABA deems appropriate with respect to my moral, ethical and professional standing; that if information is received that would adversely so affect my application I will be so advised and given an opportunity to rebut such allegations, but I will not be advised as to the identity of the individuals who have furnished adverse information concerning me; and that all such statements furnished to ABA in connection with such inquiry shall be confidential. and not subject to examination by me or anyone acting or my behalf. I understand that such a review may preclude me from taking the examination at a particular time or date and that, as a result of the review, I may be precluded from taking the examination.

Name (Please Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Review & Acknowledgement of Application

All applications will be thoroughly reviewed to ensure your eligibility to take the PASC exam. It is your responsibility to make sure the application is complete. Candidates will be notified via email that their application is received.

Denial of Eligibility

Eligibility for PASC may be denied when:

- a. any part of the application is incomplete or illegible
- b. documented information does not meet the necessary requirements
- c. application does not contain correct fees

When an application is denied for eligible reasons, the candidate will be notified in writing of the reasons. The candidate will have every opportunity to correct and submit whatever documentation is necessary to properly complete the application process and meet the minimum eligibility requirements. The original application is valid for a one (1) year period.



FORM 1: Patient & Case Management Hours

Applicant Name: _____

Company Name/Employer: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Dates of Employment: Start (mo./yr.): _____ End(mo./yr.): _____

Supervising Audiologist's Name/Title: _____

Number of Hours Per Week Devoted to the Following Pediatric Patient Services:

Pediatric Patient Services	Number of Hours Per Week
Screening	
Counseling	
Diagnostic Assessment	
Re(habilitation)	

Number of Hours Per Week Devoted to the Following Case Management Activities:

Case Management Activities	Number of Hours Per Week
Team Meetings	
Working with Other Agencies	
School Visits	

Applicant Signature: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Date: _____

FORM 2: Professional Reference #1



Professional Reference for: _____ **APPLICANT NAME**

How are you familiar with the applicant's pediatric audiology practice?

- direct supervisor
 colleague
 indirect supervisor
 I refer my patients to this applicant

In what capacity do (did) you work with the candidate? _____

What dates do (did) you work with the applicant (please indicate start and end dates including month and year (00/0000))?

Please indicate the direct pediatric audiology services the applicant does (or did) provide to patients including the estimated number of hours per week devoted to each.

Type of Service	Provided – Yes or No	Number of Hours Per Week
Diagnostic Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
(Re)habilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Please indicate what case management services does (did) the applicant provides to patients.

Type of Service	Provided – Yes or No	Number of Hours Per Week
Team Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
School Visits	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Working with Other Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Date Printed: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Contact Phone and E-mail: _____

Instructions:

Submit this form directly to the American Board of Audiology, 11480 Commerce Park Dr., #220, Reston, VA 20191. Confirm with applicant the final date that this form will be accepted. Seal the envelope and write your signature across the back of the envelope seal.



FORM 2: Professional Reference #2

Professional Reference for: _____ **APPLICANT NAME**

How are you familiar with the applicant's pediatric audiology practice?

- direct supervisor colleague indirect supervisor I refer my patients to this applicant

In what capacity do (did) you work with the candidate? _____

What dates do (did) you work with the applicant (please indicate start and end dates including month and year (00/0000))?

Please indicate the direct pediatric audiology services the applicant does (or did) provide to patients including the estimated number of hours per week devoted to each.

Type of Service	Provided – Yes or No	Number of Hours Per Week
Diagnostic Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
(Re)habilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Please indicate what case management services does (did) the applicant provides to patients.

Type of Service	Provided – Yes or No	Number of Hours Per Week
Team Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
School Visits	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Working with Other Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Date Printed: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Contact Phone and E-mail: _____

Instructions:

Submit this form directly to the American Board of Audiology, 11480 Commerce Park Dr., #220, Reston, VA 20191. Confirm with applicant the final date that this form will be accepted. Seal the envelope and write your signature across the back of the envelope seal.



FORM 3: Request For Special Examination Accommodations

If you have a disability covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please complete this form and *Form 4: Documentation of Disability-Related Needs* so your accommodations for testing can be processed efficiently. The information you provide and any documentation regarding your disability and your need for accommodation in testing will be treated with strict confidentiality.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Telephone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Special Accommodations

I request special accommodations for the _____ / _____ administration of the _____ examination.
MONTH YEAR

Please provide (check all that apply):

- Special seating or other physical accommodation
- Large print examination
- Reader
- Other special accommodations (please specify)
- Circle answers in examination booklet
- Extended examination time (time and a half)
- Separate examination area

Comments:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Return this form with your examination application. This form must be received by the ABA 60 days prior to the examination: ABA, 11480 Commerce Park Drive, Suite 220, Reston, VA 20191 USA. If you have questions, call ABA at 1.800.881.5410.



FORM 4: Documentation of Disability-Related Needs

Please have this section completed by an appropriate professional (education professional, doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist) to ensure that the Testing Administrator is able to provide the required test accommodations.

Professional Documentation

I have known _____
EXAMINATION CANDIDATE
 since _____ / _____ / _____ in my capacity as a
MONTH DATE YEAR

PROFESSIONAL TITLE

The applicant discussed with me the nature of the test to be administered. It is my opinion that because of this applicant's disability described below, he/she should be accommodated by providing the special arrangements listed on *Form 3*.

Description of Disability: _____

Signed: _____
 Title: _____
 Printed Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone Number: _____
 Date: _____
 License # (if applicable): _____

Return this form with your examination application. This form must be received at least 60 days in advance of the examination: ABA, 11480 Commerce Park Drive, Suite 220, Reston, VA 20191 USA. If you have questions, call ABA at 1.800.881.5410.

FORM 5: Non-Disclosure Agreement



To be completed on Examination Day.

- I understand that the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification (PASC) Exam is a confidential and secure exam.
- I agree that I will not discuss the content of the exam with anyone during or after the administration.
- The exam is confidential. It is made available to you, the examinee, solely for the purpose of becoming certified in Pediatric Audiology.
- You are expressly prohibited from disclosing, publishing, reproducing, or transmitting the exam, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, verbal or written, electronic or mechanical, for any purpose.
- I understand and agree that if I provide false information or if I violate any of the PASC exam rules or procedures, the Test Administrator may immediately dismiss me from the test session.
- I understand a breach of this agreement could result in disciplinary action.

Agree: I agree to accept these terms.

Disagree: You do not accept these terms.
(Note: you will not be allowed to sit for the exam)

Printed Name: _____

COPY



FORM 6: Demographic Information

The following information is solicited for statistical purposes. All questions are optional, but the ABA asks that you please respond to the questions below.

1. What is your current employment status?

- Full-time Part-time

2. Where is your primary practice setting?

- Hospital Manufacturer Corporate Audiology Group Practice
 Government School Private Practice / Owner
 Military University/Academic Private Practice / Employee
 ENT Clinic
 Other (please specify): _____

Position Choices

- Audiologist Contractor Audiologist Pediatric Audiologist
 Clinical Audiologist Director Researcher
 Consultant Educational AuD Teacher/Professor
 Other (please specify): _____

3. How did you learn of the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification? (please check all that apply)

- Through the ABA website
 Through a colleague
 Through a publication (please specify): _____
 Through another website (please specify): _____
 Through a broadcast email: _____
 At a conference or seminar (please specify): _____
 State Audiology Association

4. Payment of Certification

- I am paying for the costs associated with obtaining the credential.
 My employer is paying for ALL of the costs associated with obtaining the credential.
 My employer is paying for SOME of the costs associated with obtaining the credential.
 Please Specify _____

5. Why are you pursuing this specialty credential? (please check all that apply)

- Professional recognition
 Peer to Peer recognition / Patient recognition
 Benchmark my Pediatric Audiology knowledge
 To assist with reimbursement
 My employer suggested that I do so
 I had planned to pursue ABA board certified in audiology previously and this specialty credential became available.
 Marketing reasons
 Other (please specify): _____

Code of Ethics: Statement of Principles and Rules

The Code of Ethics of the American Board of Audiology specifies professional standards that provide for the proper discharge of audiologists' responsibilities to those served and protects the integrity of the profession. Certificants who are ABA certified agree to abide by the following principles and rules:

PRINCIPLE 1:

Certificants shall provide professional services with honesty and compassion, and shall respect the dignity, worth, and rights of those served.

Rule 1a: Certificants shall not limit the delivery of professional services on any basis that is unjustifiable or irrelevant to the need for the potential benefit from such services.

PRINCIPLE 2:

Certificants shall maintain high standards of professional competence in rendering services, providing only those professional services for which they are qualified by education and experience.

Rule 2a: Certificants shall use available resources, including referrals to other specialists, and shall not accept benefits or items of personal value for receiving or making referrals.

Rule 2b: Certificants shall exercise all reasonable precautions to avoid injury to persons in the delivery of professional services.

Rule 2c: Certificants shall not provide services except in a professional relationship, and shall not discriminate in the provision of services to individuals on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or general health.

Rule 2d: Certificants shall provide appropriate supervision and assume full responsibility for services delegated to supportive personnel. Certificants shall not delegate any service requiring professional competence to unqualified persons.

Rule 2e: Certificants shall not permit personnel to engage in any practice that would violate the Code of Ethics.

Rule 2f: Certificants shall maintain professional competence, including participation in continuing education.

PRINCIPLE 3:

Certificants shall maintain the confidentiality of the information and records of those receiving services.

Rule 3a: Certificants shall not reveal to unauthorized third parties any professional or personal information obtained from the person served professionally, unless required by law.

PRINCIPLE 4:

Certificants shall provide only services and products that are in the best interests of those served.

Rule 4a: Certificants shall not exploit persons in the delivery of professional services.

Rule 4b: Certificants shall not charge for services not rendered.

Rule 4c: Certificants shall not participate in activities that constitute a conflict of professional interest.

Rule 4d: Certificants shall not accept compensation for supervision or sponsorship beyond reimbursement of expenses.

PRINCIPLE 5:

Certificants shall provide accurate information about the nature and management of communicative disorders and about the services and products offered.

Rule 5a: Certificants shall provide persons served with the information a reasonable person would want to know about the nature and possible effects of services rendered, or products provided.

Rule 5b: Certificants may make a statement of prognosis, but shall not guarantee results, mislead, or misinform persons served.

Rule 5c: Certificants shall not carry out teaching or research activities in a manner that constitutes an invasion of privacy, or that fails to inform persons fully about the nature and possible effects of these activities, affording all persons informed free choice of participation.

Rule 5d: Certificants shall maintain reasonable documentation of all professional services rendered.

PRINCIPLE 6:

Certificants shall comply with the ethical standards of the ABA with regard to public statements.

Rule 6a: Certificants shall not misrepresent their educational degrees, training, credentials, or competence. Only degrees earned from regionally accredited colleges and universities in which training was obtained in audiology may be used in public statements which make reference to such degrees.

Rule 6b: Certificants' public statements about professional services and products shall not contain representations or claims that are false, misleading, or deceptive.

PRINCIPLE 7:

Certificants shall honor their responsibilities to the public and to professional colleagues.

Rule 7a: Certificants shall not use professional or commercial affiliations in any way that would mislead or limit services to persons served professionally.

Rule 7b: Certificants shall inform their colleagues and the public in a manner consistent with the highest professional standards about products and services they have developed.

PRINCIPLE 8:

Certificants shall uphold the dignity of the profession and freely accept the ABA's self-imposed standards.

Rule 8a: Certificants shall not violate this Code of Ethics, nor attempt to circumvent it in any manner.

Rule 8b: Certificants shall not engage in dishonesty or illegal conduct that adversely reflects on the profession.

Rule 8c: Certificants shall inform the Ethical Practice Board when there are reasons to believe that a certificant of the ABA may have violated the Code of Ethics.

Rule 8d: Certificants shall fully cooperate with the Ethical Practice Board in any matter related to the Code of Ethics.

Acknowledgements

The development of the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification (PASC) was supported in part by an educational grant from the American Academy of Audiology Foundation, funded by Phonak LLC, Starkey Laboratories and contributions from many members of the American Academy of Audiology.



Honorary Chair, Pediatric Audiology Initiative

World-renowned audiologist, Dr. Marion Downs, served as Honorary Chair of the ABA Pediatric Audiology initiative. Dr. Downs advocated for universal newborn hearing screening for more than 50-years and her commitment to this cause ensured that millions of infants and children are now identified with hearing loss during their critical developmental years.

Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification Initiative Task Force

James A. Beauchamp, AuD
Tulare, CA
Co-Chair

Cheryl D. Johnson, EdD
Leadville, CO
Co-Chair

Karen L. Anderson, PhD
Plymouth, MN

Lindsay M. Bondurant, PhD
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Judith Elkayam, AuD
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