

Becoming Certified:
Pathways, Insights and
Preparation Strategies

#### Cara Poland, MD, MEd, FACP, DFASAM

Program Director, Trinity Health Grand Rapids Addiction Medicine Fellowship

Associate Professor, OB/GYN and Reproductive Biology, Michigan State University





## Financial Disclosure

Cara Poland, MD, MEd, FACP, DFASAM

• No Relevant Disclosures

Thank you Dr. Ruchi Fitzgerald for use of her slides!

#### Content

- Assessment of the ability to apply knowledge rather than recall of isolated facts
- Focus on high-frequency and/or high-impact patient problems
- Focus of clinical situations and decisions arising in the experienced addiction medicine specialist's practice



## Some quick suggestions

- Focus studying on topics and material you don't see regularly in your clinical work
  - e.g., the Hallucinogens and Dissociatives—in each applicable section, i.e, pharmacology, intoxication, withdrawal, treatment.
- Review/skim the topics you know well
- Do Not Neglect "Soft Topics,"
  - Ethical, Legal, Liability; Harm Reduction; Non-Pharmacologic Treatments (MI, CBT, DBT)
- May be expected to know "classic" articles, e.g. MOTHER study



## **Additional Tips**

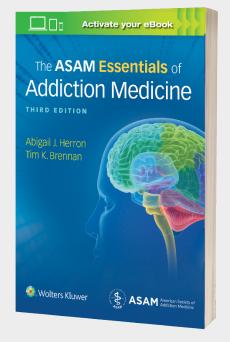
- High yield topics include neurotransmitters, receptors, neurobiology
- Read questions carefully before answering
- Work with a study partner to keep oneself accountable to a study plan – especially helpful for those in the Practice Pathway

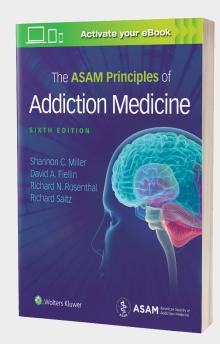


## **Study Tools**

#### Publications

The ASAM Principles of Addiction Medicine Textbook and The ASAM Essentials of Addiction Medicine (condensed version) — if you have time to read this book and complete the questions at the end of each chapter, you will have confidence for the board exam.







## **Study Tools**

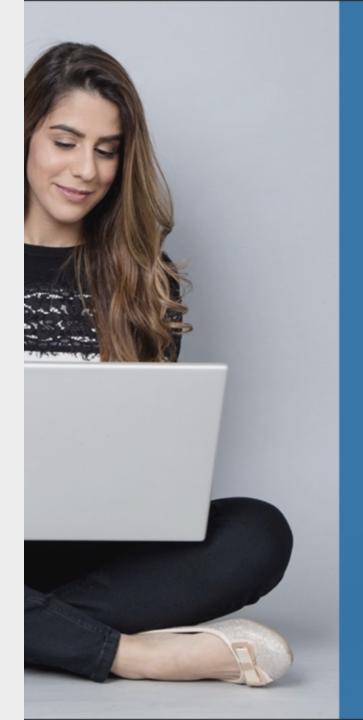
- ASAM Board Exam Study Tool (BEST)
  - 500+ board exam-style questions
  - 40 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits<sup>TM</sup>
- Review Course Weekly Office Hours
  - Complimentary to Review Course attendees
  - Connect with faculty and fellow exam takers, review practice questions and get your questions answered by our renowned experts



### MI CARES

- Provides support on the various practice pathways
- Over 20 hours of FREE CME provided by Michigan State University's Dean
- General overview/gap analysis not comprehensive review course





## MI CARES Tracking Tool and Workbook

- We have worked with the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) to interpret specific Practice Pathway eligibility requirements.
- Provides distinct language to guide physicians through the application process.
- Shares definitive activity descriptions to fulfill the 1,920 necessary Addiction Medicine experiential hours.
- Excel workbook format to be used as a source for your personal documentation, not a substitute for the actual application.



#### MI CARES Assistance

#### Coaching calls designed to:

- Provide personalized assistance with completing application documentation requirements
- Enhance your learning experience by interacting with MI CARES staff and fellow colleagues

- We will review 2 versions of Tracking Tools
- Comment on 4 entries



## Tips from Other Faculty

- Don't wait until the last minute to study
- Have confidence in your answers
- Know how to calculate NNT, etc.
- Understand the studies for substance use/misuse (NSUDH), and epidemiology for different substances.
- Do at least one practice exam and then retake it if possible.
- Results do not arrive until February.



# Questions?





## Get in Touch

301.656.3920



education@asam.org



www.asam.org

JULY 2024 REVIEW COURSE 2024