



UCNS C-cert Annual Article Selection Criteria

The following criteria have been established for C-cert subspecialty reading list submissions:

- Reflects recent advances within the past four years or current clinical knowledge in the subspecialty field
- Clinically relevant articles
- Drawn from peer-reviewed journals relevant to the subspecialty and/or the related primary specialty field
- New or updated practice guidelines published in print or electronic form
- Available to and easily accessible by UCNS diplomates (i.e., open access, on PubMed, or available to society members, etc., preferable)

Article submission criteria and the online submission information is available on the UCNS website at ucns.org/ArticleSubmission.

All submissions will be reviewed by the subspecialty's examination committee, a committee of subject matter experts who are nominated by the subspecialty's sponsoring organization(s). Committee members may include additional articles that are not included in the original submissions. The examination committee will select the annual reading list based on:

- Clinical importance of the article
- Relevance to the subspecialty's field and clinical practice (will have an impact on practice or provide a crucial update)
- Submission criteria compliance
- Article content that lends itself to the creation of educationally solid and clinically relevant quiz questions

UCNS Exam Committee Criteria for Ensuring Fair and Impartial Content

To ensure that all topics chosen for C-cert are fair and balanced, and that the articles selected, and the items written are free of bias and industry influence, exam committee chairs and members will follow the following procedures:

- Annual disclosures and conflict resolutions are shared with all group members at the first meeting of each C-cert annual cycle. Chairs guide the process of identifying and implementing appropriate mitigation of conflicts where necessary.
- Exam Committee members who have disclosed relationships with board preparation material at other societies or organizations are not allowed to serve on the UCNS examination committee.
- Exam Committee members who have authored or co-authored articles are not allowed to comment or vote on those articles at any time.
- Exam Committee members who have disclosed relationships with pharmaceutical organizations or specific therapeutics are not allowed to write items that include or are related to such therapeutics.

- Exam Committees for neurologic subspecialties that combine areas of expertise must make an effort to balance their C-cert topic coverage between those areas (i.e., Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology)
- Exam Committee chairs and members will make an effort to cover a range of clinical topics that will benefit and apply to the vast majority of practitioners in their respective subspecialty (targeting real-world knowledge gaps) while also ensuring that any substantial guideline updates are included
- As much as possible, Exam Committees will strive to select articles that all diplomates may access freely, noting that a percentage of diplomates are in private practice and lack institutional access to journals.