



ASAM REVIEW COURSE 2025

Becoming Certified: Pathways, Insights and Preparation Strategies

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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 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
- Know neurobiology!

Some quick suggestions

- Focus on studying topics and material you don't see regularly in your clinical work
 - e.g., Hallucinogens and Dissociatives—in each applicable section, i.e., pharmacology, intoxication, withdrawal, and 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

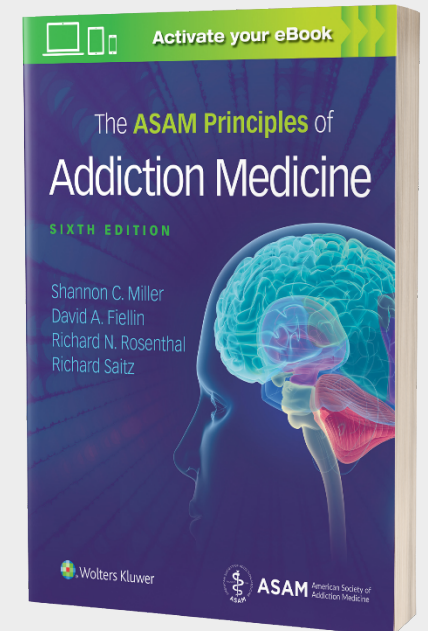
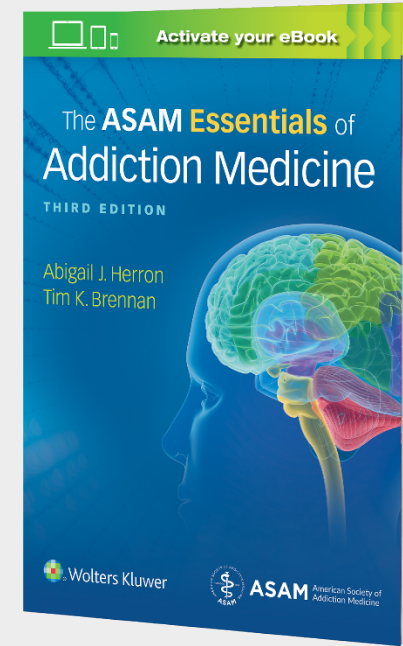
Additional Tips

- 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™**
- 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

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



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