

**AMERICAN BOARD OF UROLOGY
2010 RECERTIFICATION EXAMINATION PROCESS
INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC LOGS**

Please read all instructions carefully before preparing your log. It will be returned for correction if it does not follow the specified format exactly. Failure to comply with the required format may affect your eligibility to sit for the examination.

The American Board of Urology has created a process for recertification candidates to submit their practice logs electronically. Step-by-step instructions for preparing your log are attached to this sheet. You must submit a Microsoft Excel workbook, text file, or .csv file for each location where you practice. The locations may be combined or may be on separate worksheets. You do not need to separate adult and pediatric cases, and do not need to provide a summary.

If you do not have the capability of exporting from your billing system, you have three options: 1) you can manually create Excel worksheets in the required format per the attached instructions; or 2) you can manually type the data in the required format into a plain text file that is tab delimited; or 3) the Board office will contract with a data entry person to type your log from the data you submit for a fee of \$500 (the deadline for data to be submitted for this option is February 1. Call the Board office for further details about the criteria for data submission for this option). Note: if portions of your practice do not use the AMA codes, call the Board office for instructions.

Your practice log must be **six consecutive months in length** (for example: January 15 - July 14) from the 18-month period between September 1, 2008 and March 1, 2010. **All facilities** where you practiced during the six-month reporting period must be included in your practice log and must include the **same six months**. Do not submit a log with a length of more than 180 days.

Your log must **include all office visits** (whether or not a procedure was performed at the same visit), **and all procedures billed under your name** that are performed by you or by physician health care extenders including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, or other auxiliary health care professionals that are billed under your name.

All logs are **due March 15**. Logs received between March 16th and March 31st will incur a \$750 late fee. No practice logs will be accepted after March 31. It is recommended that you retain a copy of your log submission in the event modifications are needed or the Board has specific questions.

Your log **must be submitted in the exact format pictured in # 8** of these instructions. Before submitting your log, be sure it meets all specified criteria **or it will be returned to you for correction**.

You may submit your completed log to the Board office via e-mail to recertlogs@abu.org **OR** on CD-ROM or diskette. **DO NOT SEND DUPLICATE COPIES OF YOUR LOG AND DO NOT SEND A PRINTED COPY.**

The original paper copies of the Practice Breakdown, complications narratives, and notarized Practice Log Verification Statement must be completed and mailed to the Board office by **March 15**.

If you have questions after thoroughly reviewing the attached instructions, please call the Board office for assistance. The phone number is (434) 979-0059.

MANDATORY FORMAT FOR ELECTRONIC PRACTICE LOG SUBMISSION

In order for this electronic submission to work properly, you will need to output or export data for all office visits and procedures for 6 consecutive months within the allowable date range from the billing system for each location where you practice. Many billing systems have an export functionality or “wizard”, that, when accessed, will start a step-by-step process that will assist you in your export to an Excel (.xls), comma-delimited (.csv), or text format file. It may be necessary for you to consult the vendor who supplies your billing software if you have questions about how to do this export. The Board office does not have knowledge of specific billing software and cannot answer billing-software-specific questions for you.

Your submission may include one workbook that combines separate worksheets for multiple locations, separate worksheets for each location, or variations of that, depending on your billing system. All of these are acceptable.

Step-by-step instructions for creating your electronic log:

1. **Export the data.** When asked, you will need to choose the option that allows you to export the data listed below. The instructions that follow are for a .csv format or comma-delimited format. (Specific required formatting for your submission is shown in #8, below.)

		Export As:	
Column A	Case #	Text	Unique Identifier, up to 20 alpha-numeric characters
Column B	Patient Age	Text	Number between 0 and 125
Column C	Gender	Text	Patient's gender (M, F, or U (if uncertain))
Column D	Date	Date	Date of office visit or procedure (*m/*d/yyyy)
Column E	ICD-9	<u>Text</u>	Primary ICD-9 code (include decimals where applicable)
Column F	CPT	Text	A single CPT code, E&M code, or HCPCS code
Columns G-		<u>Text</u>	Additional ICD-9 codes, one to a column, if applicable

2. **Save this file to a computer disk drive** where it can be opened using Microsoft Excel. Open the file in Excel. Save the file as a Microsoft Office Excel workbook, .csv or text file named "recertlog.ABUnumber", inserting your ABU number in the file name; for example: recertlog.15361. (Your ABU number is on your cover letter of this mailing.)

The practice log generated from your billing system will now be visible in Excel as a worksheet. It should look like the example below. Be careful to not change any values in the data.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	9399	45	M	2/14/2007	078 1	54055		
2	9624	79	M	2/28/2007	078 1	54055	600 1	
3	9542	37	M	3/1/2007	078 1	54055		
4	9399	46	M	3/3/2007	078 1	54055		
5	9399	46	M	3/17/2007	078 1	99212		
6	534	77	M	4/4/2007	185	99213	599 7	592
7	2334	68	M	4/4/2007	185	99213		
8	2334	68	M	4/4/2007	185	J9217		
9	2334	68	M	4/4/2007	185	96400		
10	255970	47	M	5/12/2007	695	54161		
11	1706871	37	M	5/17/2007	599 7	52005-50		
12	1706871	37	M	5/17/2007	599 7	52204-59		
13	1706871	37	M	7/12/2007	v25 2	55250		
14								

3. **Format the columns.** All columns other than the date should be formatted as "text".

4. **Insert 7 rows at the top of the worksheet.** A template is available on the ABU website at: <http://www.abu.org/downloads/PracticeLogTemplate.xls>

5. Complete column A, rows 1-6; and row 7 by typing in the entries as shown in the figure below in # 8.

6. Complete the remaining header information as follows:

a. In column B, row 1, type your ABU Number.

b. In column B, row 2, type your Last Name with no punctuation. Do not put your first name, initials, suffix, or degree.

c. In column B, row 3, type your Practice Type. It must be a single value selected from one of the following, spelled exactly like this, *in all capitals*. No other values are acceptable.

- ANDROLOGY
- GENERAL
- ENDOUROLOGY
- FEMALE
- ONCOLOGY
- PEDIATRIC
- UROLITHIASIS

d. In column B, row 4, type your Location Name. This is the name of the facility where the office visits occurred or the procedures were performed. The location name must be unique for each setting, for example: ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, ST. MARY'S AMBULATORY SURGERY, ST. MARY'S CLINIC, Urology Associates of Rochester, etc.

e. In column B, row 5, type the Clinical Setting. It must be one of the following that best describes the setting in which the office visit occurred or the procedure was performed. No other choices are acceptable. If the setting is not exactly one of these, use the one which most closely describes the type of setting.

- OFFICE
- HOSPITAL
- AMBULATORY CARE CENTER

f. In column B, row 6, type your class exactly as follows: RCT 2010 (It must be exactly like this – all capitals and a space between RCT and 2010.)

7. Case data must begin in row 8. The data columns in each worksheet must be in exactly this order: See the figure in #8 for an example.

a. **Column A: Case #.** Each patient must have a unique number. The number can contain numbers and/or letters. It should be a number that you can use to locate a specific patient in the event the Board has questions. In order to comply with the HIPPA regulations, it cannot be a name or social security number that would identify the patient. If you need to assign numbers because of this, keep a list of the patients that correspond to those numbers for your records in the event there are questions.

b. **Column B: Patient age.** Do not put anything in this column but a number. Do not put "years", "yrs.", "months", etc. Do not enter the date of birth. If a formula is used to calculate the patients' ages, the formula must be removed from the cells.

c. **Column C: Patient gender.** The only choices are M, F, or U (for Unknown, if the gender is uncertain).

d. **Column D: Date of service.** The cells in this column must be formatted as “date” and must be in mm/dd/yyyy format. No other format is acceptable. (It is not necessary to put leading zeroes to make the month and day two-digit.) The dates on all worksheets must fall within the same consecutive 6-month period within the acceptable date range. Do not include more than 6 months of data. **Sort each worksheet by date in ascending order.**

e. **Column E: ICD-9 (Diagnosis) Code.** The cells in this column must be formatted as “text.” Put the primary diagnosis code in this column. The **decimal point must be included.** Be sure required leading zeroes are visible, as in the 078.11 ICD-9 code, or the record will be rejected. If there are additional diagnoses, put these in columns G, H, I, etc., with only one code per column. (Only the primary diagnosis is required.) See the examples in #8, rows 9 and 13.

f. **Column F: CPT (Procedure) Code, E&M (Evaluation and Management) Code, or HCPCS Level II Code.** All cells in this column must be formatted as “text”. Put **only one code in each cell in this column.** Each CPT code must be listed on a separate row. Modifiers are not required. If you include a modifier, it must be formatted as follows: CPT code, no space, hyphen, no space, and then the modifier (for example: 53420-77).

If a procedure is performed on the same patient at the time of the office visit, or multiple procedures are performed at the same time, put the data on separate rows. You will have one row with the office visit (E&M) code, and/or separate rows for each procedure (CPT) code. In this case, all cells in the second and subsequent rows will be the same, but with a different CPT code. See the examples in #8, rows 14-16.

8. Compare your worksheets to the one below. Each of the final worksheets must have the following format:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Diplomate #	15361						
2	Last Name	Monroe						
3	Practice Type	General						
4	Location Name	XYZ Health Science Center						
5	Setting	Hospital						
6	Class	RCT 2010						
7	Case #	Age	Gender	Date of Service	ICD-9 Code	CPT, E&M or HCPCS Code	Additional ICD-9 Code (optional)	Additional ICD-9 Code (optional)
8	9399	45	M	2/14/2007	078.1	54055		
9	9624	76	M	2/28/2007	078.1	54055	600.1	
10	9542	37	M	3/1/2007	078.1	54055		
11	9399	46	M	3/3/2007	078.1	54055		
12	9399	46	M	3/17/2007	078.1	99212		
13	534	77	M	4/4/2007	185	99213	599.7	592
14	2334	68	M	4/4/2007	185	99213		
15	2334	68	M	4/4/2007	185	J9217		
16	2334	68	M	4/4/2007	185	96400		
17	255970	47	M	5/12/2007	605	54161		
18	1706871	37	M	5/17/2007	599.7	52005-50		
19	1706871	37	M	5/17/2007	599.7	52204-59		
20	1706871	37	M	7/12/2007	v25.2	55250		

PLEASE NOTE:

Many logs contain duplicate entries for the same patient on the same date. The Board assumes that either multiple payors were billed for the same visit or that it is a clerical error. All duplicate entries will be removed from your log submission before processing your report.

9. **Additional information:**

- a. **The heading information in rows 1-7 is required on each worksheet.** This heading should only be at the top of each worksheet. DO NOT put it at the top of each computer screen view.
- b. **The data in columns A-F must be in the exact order specified above.** If your log data is not in this exact format, it will be returned to you for re-formatting. If your billing data gives other columns, delete them. If there are additional rows that are not to be included in your log, delete them. Do not hide rows or columns to make your log look like the format above - the software will see the hidden columns and reject your log, and it will be returned to you for correction.
- c. **All cells in columns A – F beginning in row 8 must contain data.** Your log will not load into the software for processing if there are blank data cells in these columns, and it will be returned to you for correction.
- d. **Sort each worksheet in ascending date order.**
- e. **Do not list any items that are not billed** such as cancelled appointments, those listed as “no show”, requests for medical records, meetings with attorneys, etc. Delete each of these rows before submitting your log.
- f. **Delete any blank worksheets in the workbook.** A blank worksheet will cause your log to be rejected by the software.
- g. **Your log file must be submitted as a Microsoft Excel workbook, text, or .csv file.** If you have Excel 2007, please save the file as an Excel 2003 file. Other formats including XML, HTML, PDF or any other format are not acceptable.

10. **Submit your log to the Board after you have verified that all criteria have been met.**

To submit your log via email, send it to recertlogs@abu.org using only your name and ABU ID number in the subject line. You will receive an auto-reply message that your email was received. **Then mail a paper copy of the Practice Breakdown, *notarized* Practice Log Verification Statement, and Complications Narratives to the Board office by March 16. Do not mail a paper copy of your log.**

To submit your log via postal mail, copy the file to a CD-ROM or diskette and send it to the Board office. It is recommended you send these by courier for guaranteed delivery.

Please do not call to verify we received your log. Courier service is recommended for guaranteed delivery. We will contact you if we have not received it or there are any questions or concerns. Log review will be in July, and if there are any questions about your log, you will be notified by letter after that time.