

**AMERICAN BALINT SOCIETY  
CREDENTIALING PROCEDURES FOR BALINT  
GROUP LEADERS**

Approved by the American Balint Society April 24, 1998; Revised July 7, 1999; July 8, 2002; April 11, 2003; April 9, 2007

How to recognize qualified Balint leaders has been a long-standing issue for both the American Balint Society and the International Balint Federation. The following procedures are an effort, in what will be an ongoing process by the Society, to credential well-qualified Balint leaders. We anticipate continued refinement of the process with experience and with further development in Balint leader training.

The steps outlined below constitute a process of training and evaluation in preparation for credentialing review by the Council of the American Balint Society. They do not guarantee credentialing.

**Basic requirements:**

1. The person seeking Balint leader credentialing must be a member of the American Balint Society, maintain this membership throughout the process, and complete an application for credentialing submitted to the Chair of the Credentialing Coordinating Committee (CCC) to initiate the credentialing process
2. Concurrent to the credentialing process the applicant will be leading or co-leading Balint groups ideally no less than twice monthly for two years. This frequency allows for optimum development of Balint group process and leadership skills. In settings where this is not possible, the CCC will consider alternative scheduling.
3. For optimal leadership training there are, ideally, two co-leaders. In medical settings, one co-leader will be a physician and the other a psychiatrist, psychologist, counselor or licensed clinical social worker.
4. During this two-year period of leading or co-leading Balint groups, the applicant will be reviewing, discussing and analyzing with his/her co-leader the process of the Balint group. Such review sessions will occur ideally not less than twice a month and for no less than one-half hour per session.

**Credentialing process requirements:**

1. The applicant will complete a supervision process of his/her ongoing group. The supervision process will include six supervision sessions a year for two years with an approved Balint supervisor.
2. He/she must complete three Balint Leader Intensives, two as a participant, and a third as a credentialing candidate.

3. **Final Credentialing Intensive.** In a Balint Leadership Intensive the candidate will co-lead one group with each of his/her group's two faculty members. Neither faculty with whom they co-lead will have served as their supervisor or home site co-leader. At the end of the Intensive, the two faculty members from the candidate's group together with the person acting as evaluator for the candidate will meet to discuss and evaluate the candidate's performance as leader. Their written assessment will be presented to the candidate and to the Credentialing Coordinating Committee by the evaluator.

**Credit given for prior experiences:**

1. **Prior experience as a Balint group member**

Applicants who have been a participant in a Balint group which met for at least two years no less frequently than twice a month need complete only one Balint Leader Intensive as a participant and one as a credentialing candidate.

OR

**Prior Process Group Experience**

Applicants who have formal training in group process theory, including at least three months of group laboratory experience need complete only one Balint Leader Intensive as a participant and one as a credentialing candidate.

2. **Co-leading with a Credentialed Balint Group Leader**

For applicants who have had more than two years of co-leadership experience with a credentialed Balint leader, with the attestation of the credentialed co-leader, ongoing debriefing (as described in Basic Requirements #4) may serve in lieu of some or all formal supervision.

**Exceptional Circumstances:**

The criteria outlined above specify several routes leading to Balint leader credentialing. In exceptional circumstances modification of the above procedures may be considered on an individual basis by the CCC. It is recognized that some candidates have not had the opportunity to qualify through the prescribed mechanisms, but have had much greater group experience than the training required above or much greater experience in Balint leadership training and are easily able to demonstrate such competencies. In such cases, the Credentialing Coordinating Committee may recommend credentialing based upon equivalent training and demonstrated competency as a credentialing candidate at a Balint Leader Intensive.

**Final review and credentialing decision:**

1. The Credentialing Coordinating Committee is charged with reviewing the candidate's qualifications, supervision (if done) and performance at the credentialing intensive and making a recommendation to the ABS Council whether or not to credential this candidate. Each person will be judged individually according to actual performance.
2. If further work is required, a timeline of specific activities addressing areas of need will be mutually negotiated. The timeline will specify deadlines in order to insure timely completion of the credentialing process.
3. The ABS Council votes to make the final credentialing decision on each candidate.