



Policy on Required ABEM Continuing Certification Activity

BACKGROUND

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) continuing certification process is required for ABEM-certified physicians to maintain certification are described below.

POLICY

ABEM-certified physicians can maintain certification by participating in and meeting the following requirements.

Professionalism and Professional Standing

ABEM-certified physicians' medical licensure must continually comply with the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure and ABEM Code of Professionalism.

Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment

ABEM-certified physicians whose current certification is for ten years must pass four LLSA tests during the first five years of their ten-year certification period. Physicians cannot count LLSA tests they complete during one five-year period toward their next five-year requirement. Physicians whose certifications are for ten years and who do not complete their first five-year requirements on time will not lose certification, but will be reported as "not participating in continuing certification."

Board-eligible physicians who achieve certification can count their LLSA tests completed during the calendar year in which they became certified toward continuing certification requirements that start that year. The Policy on Board Eligibility defines board-eligible physicians.

Assessment of Knowledge, Judgement, and Skills

ABEM-certified physicians whose current certification is for ten years must take and pass the ABEM Continuous Certification (ConCert™) Examination or four MyEMCert modules in the second five full years of certification. Physicians are not required to complete their LLSA or any other requirement for renewing certification prior to registering for the ConCert Examination or MyEMCert modules, other than maintaining medical licensure in compliance with ABEM policy. Passing the ConCert Examination or four MyEMCert modules does not renew certification. Certification is renewed on January 1 after expiration of the current certificate if all continuing certification requirements have been met.

ABEM-certified physicians whose current certification is for five years (certificates issued in 2021 and after) must complete four MyEMCert modules every five years to renew their certification.

Board eligible physicians who achieve certification can count their MyEMCert modules completed during the calendar year in which they became certified toward their continuing certification requirements that start that year. The Policy on Board Eligibility defines board eligible physicians.

Improvement in Medical Practice

ABEM-certified physicians who are clinically active must complete and attest to completion of Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) activities to maintain certification. Physicians whose certifications are for ten years are required to complete one IMP activity by the end of their fifth full year of certification, and one IMP activity in years six through ten of certification. Physicians whose certifications are for ten years and who do not complete their first five-year requirements on time will not lose certification, but will be reported as “not participating in continuing certification.”

Physicians whose certifications are for five years (certificates issued in 2021 and after) must complete an IMP activity every five years. These physicians must complete all continuing certification requirements by the end of their five-year certification or they will be decertified.

IMP activities must follow ABEM IMP Activity Guidelines, described on the ABEM website.

ABEM-certified physicians may report IMP activities they complete within their practice. Alternatively, they may complete any ABEM-approved, third-party IMP module.

ABEM-certified physicians who inform ABEM that they are clinically inactive do not have IMP requirements. Clinically inactive physicians can change their status to clinically active by completing one required IMP activity. When they become clinically active, physicians will have IMP requirements current at the time they become clinically active.

Reporting IMP Activities to ABEM

ABEM-certified physicians report completion of IMP activities to ABEM by attesting that they have completed the activities following the ABEM IMP Activity Guidelines described above.

When physicians attest to completion of IMP activities, they are required to specify an independent verifier of their activities. The verifier must be someone with oversight or knowledge of practice performance.

Five percent of reported IMP activities will be randomly selected for verification. ABEM will ask verifiers to affirm that all of ABEM’s guidelines for completion of the activity were met. Any activity that is not verifiable will not meet the requirement.

Annual Fee

Physicians with certificates issued in 2021 and after are charged an annual fee. Payment of the fee is required to access continuing certification activities. Physicians who do not pay the annual fee by the end of the grace period will be decertified. Please refer to the ABEM Policy on Fees.

Renewal of Certification

ABEM-certified physicians who have met all their ABEM continuing certification requirements will renew certification on January 1 immediately following expiration of their previous certification.

Nonrenewal of Certification

Physicians who do not meet all their ABEM continuing certification requirements by their certification expiration date are no longer certified. ABEM provides options for formerly certified physicians to regain certification, defined in the Policy on Regaining Certification. The options for regaining certification are based on the following:

- The number of required ABEM requirements to renew certification a physician completed prior to certification expiration
- Whether more than five years have elapsed since the physician’s certification expired.

APPEALS

The American Board of Emergency Medicine maintains an appeal process for ABEM-certified physicians and formerly certified physicians who do not fulfill the requirements described in this policy.

EXCEPTION

None