



## **Policy on Maintaining Open Applications to Regain Subspecialty Certification**

### **BACKGROUND**

To track the applications of physicians formerly certified in a subspecialty administered or co-sponsored by the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) who are attempting to regain ABEM certification, applications for regaining certification have been designated as open or closed. ABEM has defined the examination activity that formerly certified physicians must complete to keep their applications for regaining certification open.

This policy became effective in 2024.

### **POLICY**

Initially approved applications for regaining subspecialty certification are considered open. Physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered subspecialty or ABEM co-sponsored subspecialty with open applications to regain certification may register for an assessment. Physicians must take an assessment at least once every three years for their applications to remain open.

Taking an assessment for an ABEM-administered subspecialty is defined as completing 80 of the questions on the relevant initial certification examination. (Please refer to the Policy on Scoring Candidate Examinations for additional information.)

Taking an assessment for an ABEM co-sponsored subspecialty is defined as attempting the initial certification examination in that subspecialty.

Physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered or co-sponsored subspecialty who pass the relevant initial certification examination become certified.

Failure to take an assessment at least once every three years will result in permanent closure of the application to regain subspecialty certification. If the application is closed, the physician cannot take any assessment. To regain access to assessments, the physician must reapply to regain subspecialty certification. Prior assessment attempts cannot be transferred from a closed application to a new application.

### **PROCEDURES**

Physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered or co-sponsored subspecialty regaining certification who must take the relevant initial certification examination must attempt that examination within three years after applying to regain certification or their application to regain subspecialty certification will be closed.

Physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered or co-sponsored subspecialty who take but do not pass the relevant initial certification or recertification examination must retake the examination within three years after the end of the year in which they failed the examination, or their certification application will be closed.

### **EXCEPTION**

None.

Last reviewed July 2024

**ABEM Policy on Maintaining Open Applications to Regain Subspecialty Certification**