



## Policy on Regaining Certification

### BACKGROUND

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) provides options for formerly certified physicians to regain certification. Under specific circumstances, formerly certified physicians have the opportunity to regain certification by making up requirements missed during certification. If those circumstances do not apply, formerly certified physicians must pass (four MyEMCert modules and then pass the Oral Certification Examination).

This policy is effective beginning January 28, 2011.

### POLICY

All formerly certified physicians regaining certification must continuously maintain medical licensure in compliance with the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure.

#### **Formerly Certified Physicians Whose Certificates Expired Five or Fewer Years Ago and Who Completed at Least Four Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment (LLSA) Tests or at Least Two MyEMCert Modules While Certified**

- These formerly certified physicians may regain certification by making up all requirements missed during certification.<sup>1</sup> MyEMCert modules can be completed for missed LLSA tests.
- If these formerly certified physicians do not make up the missed requirements by the end of the fifth year after their certification expires, they must apply to regain certification and pass four MyEMCert modules<sup>2</sup>, then pass the Oral Certification Examination to regain certification.

#### **Formerly Certified Physicians Whose Certificates Expired More than Five Years Ago or Who Completed Four Required LLSA Tests or Fewer than Two MyEMCert Modules While Certified**

- These formerly certified physicians must apply to regain certification, pass four MyEMCert modules<sup>2</sup>, and then pass the Oral Certification Examination to regain certification.

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<sup>1</sup> The number of missed LLSA tests is a factor in determining a formerly certified physician's options for regaining certification. If the formerly certified physician can regain certification by making up missed requirements, the actual requirements that must be made up could include annual fees, LLSA tests, and practice improvement activity requirements or MyEMCert modules. All unmet requirements must be made up. The formerly certified physician must verify which requirements they missed and must be made up.

<sup>2</sup> If a formerly certified physician passed the ConCert Examination or passed four MyEMCert modules in less than five years prior to applying to regain certification, the MyEMCert requirement to regain certification will be waived, and the formerly certified physician will only be required to pass the Oral Certification Examination to regain certification.

**Formerly Certified Physicians Whose Certificates Were Revoked Due to Non-compliance with the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure**

- If a certificate expires while revoked, the formerly certified physician may not regain certification unless their medical licensure is determined to meet the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure.
- When a formerly certified physician's medical licensure is determined to meet policy, the method by which they may regain certification is determined by the number of years since their certificate expired and the requirements missed during certification. See the options listed above for more details.

**Formerly Certified Physicians Whose Certificates Were Revoked Due to Non-payment of the Annual Fee**

- If a certificate expires while revoked, the formerly certified physician may not regain certification unless they have paid the past-due annual fee.
- When a formerly certified physician has paid the past due annual fee, the method by which they may regain certification is determined by the number of years since their certificate expired and the requirements missed during certification. See the options listed above for more details.

**Clinical Activity Status for Formerly Certified Physicians Who Regain Certification**

ABEM will designate formerly certified physicians who regain certification as “clinically active” regardless of their clinical activity status when their previous certification expires. Certified physicians can reset their status to “clinically inactive.” Certified physicians who have indicated that they are clinically inactive do not have Improvement in Medical Practice requirements.

**PROCEDURES****Formerly Certified Physicians Who Have the Option of Regaining Certification by Making Up Missed Requirements**

Annual fees, LLSA tests, MyEMCert modules, and practice improvement activities can be made up at any time of year and must be made up by the end of the fifth year after their certification expires. The number of LLSA tests or MyEMCert modules needed for a formerly certified physician to regain certification will be made available and will consist of the most recent LLSA tests or MyEMCert modules the physician still needs to pass.

When all missed requirements have been completed, a new certificate will be issued with the certification date of the last missed requirement completed and a clinical activity status of “clinically active.”

**Formerly Certified Physicians Who Must Pass MyEMCert modules and Oral Certification Examination to Regain Certification**

Formerly certified physicians regaining certification under this option must apply, with an application fee. While attempting to regain certification via this option, formerly certified physicians will be governed by the Policy on Maintaining Open and Active Applications to Regain Certification, which requires examination activity at least once every three years to keep the application to regain certification open.

Any formerly certified physician with an approved, open application for regaining certification will be provided access to MyEMCert and must pass four modules.

Formerly certified physicians regaining certification under this option who pass four MyEMCert modules will be randomly assigned to an Oral Certification Examination administration the following calendar year. Formerly certified physicians whose MyEMCert requirement is waived<sup>2</sup> will be randomly assigned to an Oral Certification

Examination the calendar year after they apply to regain certification. Oral Certification Examinations are administered yearly in the spring, fall, and winter.

Formerly certified physicians who pass the Oral Certification Examination will be issued a new certificate dated the date of the examination results letter or December 31 of the year in which the examination was taken, whichever is earlier, and with a clinical activity status of “clinically active.”

## **APPEALS**

ABEM maintains an appeal process for formerly certified physicians who still need to fulfill the requirements described in this policy.