



Policy on Required EMCC Activity

BACKGROUND

Emergency Medicine Continuous Certification (EMCC) is an ABMS Maintenance of Certification (MOC)[®] program. ABEM wishes to state its policy regarding the required activity for diplomates to maintain certification.

POLICY

Diplomates of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) can maintain certification by participating in and meeting the following requirements of the Emergency Medicine Continuous Certification (EMCC) program.

Professional Standing

Diplomates' medical licensure must continually comply with the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure.

Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment

Diplomates must pass a specific number of LLSA tests within each ten-year certification period.

During the initial EMCC phase-in, from 2004 through 2013, the number of LLSA tests required is prorated according to the number of years between 2004 and the diplomate's certification expiration date. See the section, "Phase-in of Policy" for the number of LLSA tests required for diplomates whose certificates expire in or before 2013.

For diplomates whose certificates expire in or after 2014, the required number of LLSA tests in each ten-year certification period is eight.

Beginning with certificates that expire in 2017, diplomates must pass four of their required eight LLSA tests by the end of their fifth full year of certification. They must complete the second four tests in years six through ten of certification. Diplomates cannot count LLSA tests they complete during one five-year period toward their next five-year requirement.

ABEM is phasing in these requirements. See the section, "Phase-in of Policy" for details of the phase-in schedule.

Cognitive Expertise Examination

Diplomates must take and pass the ABEM continuous certification (ConCert) examination in or before the year in which their certification expires. Changes to this policy will take effect in 2013. See the section, "Phase-in of Policy" for details.

Assessment of Practice Performance

Diplomates who are clinically active must complete and attest to completion of Assessment of Practice Performance (APP) activities to maintain certification. ABEM is phasing in these requirements. See the section, "Phase-in of Policy" for details of the phase-in schedule.

When the APP requirements are fully phased in, diplomates will be required to complete one patient care practice improvement (PI) activity and one Communication/Professionalism Patient Feedback (CP) activity by the end of their fifth full year of certification. They must also complete one PI and one CP activity in years six through ten of certification. APP activities must follow ABEM APP Activity Guidelines, described below.

Diplomates may report practice improvement and patient feedback activities they complete within their practice. Alternatively, they may complete any ABEM-approved third-party Practice Improvement module.

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

APP Activity Guidelines

ABEM guidelines for completion of APP patient care practice improvement (PI) activities require that the diplomate follow the following four steps:

- Review patient clinical care data from ten of the diplomate's patients. The data must be related to a single presentation, disease, or clinical care process that is part of the Model of the Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine (EM Model). Group data is acceptable if the individual diplomate's data is included. Measuring fewer than ten patients are acceptable if the activity is focused on a high-acuity, low-volume clinical issue.
- Compare the data to evidence-based guidelines. If such guidelines are not available, diplomates may use expert consensus or comparable peer data.
- Develop and implement a practice improvement plan which may be an individual or group effort.
- Review patient clinical care data from ten additional patients with the same presentation, disease, or clinical process as the first patient data review. Group data can be used if the diplomate's own patients are included, and measuring fewer than ten patients is acceptable if the activity is focused on a high-acuity, low-volume clinical issue. Use the new data to evaluate whether clinical performance has positively changed or if acceptable performance has been maintained.

ABEM guidelines for completion of APP Communication/Professionalism Patient Feedback (CP) activities require that at least ten of the physician's patients be surveyed. Group surveys may be used provided that at least ten of the physician's patients are included in the survey. In addition, at least one physician behavior must be measured from each of the following three categories:

- Communication/listening
- Providing information
- Showing concern for the patient

Reporting APP Activities to ABEM

Diplomates report completion of APP activities to ABEM by attesting that they have completed the activities following the ABEM APP Activity Guidelines described above.

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

Ten percent of reported APP 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.

Renewing Certification

Through 2012, diplomates will be issued a new certificate when they pass the ConCert examination.

Diplomates who do not meet all their EMCC requirements by their certification expiration date become former diplomates and are no longer certified. ABEM provides options for former diplomates to regain certification, defined in the Policy on Regaining Certification. The options for regaining certification are based on the following:

- The number of required EMCC activities a physician completed prior to certification expiration
- Whether or not more than five years have elapsed since the physician's certification expired.

PHASE-IN OF POLICY

Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment

LLSA requirements are being phased in through 2016 as follows:

- Diplomates whose certificates expire in 2011 must pass six LLSA tests by their current certification expiration date.
- Diplomates whose certificates expire in 2012 must pass seven LLSA tests by their current certification expiration date.
- Diplomates whose certificates expire in 2013 through 2016 must pass eight LLSA tests and have the full 10 years of their current certificate to complete their LLSA requirements.

Cognitive Expertise Examination

Through 2012, all required LLSA tests must be completed before the diplomate can register for the ConCert examination. Diplomates must pass seven LLSA tests to register for the 2012 ConCert examination.

Beginning in 2013 diplomates do not have to complete the LLSA requirement to take the ConCert examination. However, they must complete all EMCC requirements, including their LLSA requirement, to renew their certification.

Beginning in 2013, passing the ConCert examination alone will not renew certification. Diplomates must complete all EMCC requirements to renew their certification. ABEM will determine if diplomates' certificates can be renewed on their current certification expiration date.

Beginning in 2013, diplomates may only take the ConCert examination in their sixth through tenth full years of certification.

Assessment of Practice Performance

APP requirements for clinically active diplomates are being phased in as follows:

- Diplomates whose certificates expire in 2011 and 2012 do not have an APP requirement during their current certification.
- Diplomates whose certificates expire in 2013 and 2014 are required to complete and report completion of one PI activity by their certification expiration date.
- Diplomates whose certificates expire in 2015 and 2016 must complete and report completion of one PI activity and one CP activity by their certification expiration date.
- Diplomates whose certificates expire in 2017 must complete and report completion of one PI activity by the end of 2012. They must also complete and report completion of the following:
 - A PI activity between 2013 and their certification expiration date, and
 - A CP activity anytime by the end of their certification expiration date.

The APP phase-in period ends in 2017. Diplomates whose certificates expire in or after 2018 have the full complement of APP requirements.

APPEALS

The American Board of Emergency Medicine maintains an appeal process for diplomates and former diplomates who do not fulfill the requirements described in this policy.

EXCEPTION

None

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