



Policy on Regaining Certification

BACKGROUND

ABEM provides options for former diplomates to regain certification. Under specific circumstances, former diplomates have the opportunity to regain certification through the EMCC program. If those circumstances do not apply, former diplomates have the opportunity to regain certification by taking and passing the qualifying examination, formerly known as the written certification examination, or the qualifying and oral certification examinations.

POLICY

Through December 31, 2009, a ConCert examination that a diplomate takes but does not pass will count as a physician's LLSA requirement for that year if the physician has not already taken and passed an LLSA test that same year.

Former Diplomates Who Did Not Miss Any Required LLSA Tests Prior to Certification Expiration

- Former diplomates who did not miss any required Lifelong Learning Self Assessment (LLSA) tests before their certification expiration date may attempt to regain certification by taking and passing a Continuous Certification (ConCert) examination by the end of the third year after their certification expires.
- Within the three years, the former diplomates are required to take and pass an LLSA test in each of the years that they do not take the ConCert examination.
- If former diplomates do not pass the ConCert examination by the end of the third year, they must take and pass both the qualifying examination, formerly known as the written certification examination, and the oral certification examination to regain certification.

Former Diplomates Who Missed One LLSA Test Prior to Certification Expiration

- Former diplomates who missed one required LLSA test before their certification expired must take and pass the qualifying examination by the end of the third year after the certification expires to regain certification.
- Within the three years, former diplomates are required to take and pass an LLSA test in each of the years that they do not take the qualifying examination.

If former diplomates do not pass the qualifying examination by the end of the third year, they must pass both the qualifying examination and the oral certification examination to regain certification.

Former Diplomates Who Missed Two or More LLSA Tests Prior to Certification Expiration

- Former diplomates who missed two or more required LLSA tests before their certification expiration date must take and pass both the qualifying examination and the oral certification examination to regain certification. There is no deadline for initiating this approach.

Former Diplomates Who Had a One-time Opportunity to Regain Certification in 2004

- In 2004, all former diplomates whose certificates expired anytime in or before 2003 had a one-time, time-limited opportunity to attempt to regain certification within the EMCC program.
- Former diplomates who did not begin this one-time opportunity in 2004 or did not complete all requirements of the opportunity must pass the qualifying examination and the oral certification examination to regain certification.

Former Diplomates Whose Certificates Have Been Reinstated Due to Prior Revocation

Former diplomates whose certificates have been reinstated within three years of the revocation date may seek certification at the current point of the remaining time on his or her certificate. Refer to the previous sections of this policy to determine the method of certification required.

Former diplomates whose certificates have been reinstated after three years of the revocation date may only regain certification by successfully completing both the qualifying and oral examinations. There is no deadline for initiating this approach.

Definition of Taking an Examination

Taking an examination is defined as completing 80% of the questions on the qualifying examination or ConCert examination, or five of the six cases used for scoring an oral certification examination. A candidate may take the qualifying examination or the ConCert examination no more than once during an examination administration.

PROCEDURES

Former diplomates who must take only the qualifying examination to regain certification must apply to ABEM and have their application approved before they can register for the qualifying examination or register for LLSA tests. While attempting to regain certification through this option, they will be governed by certification policies and procedures excluding the *Policy on Maintaining Open and Active Certification Applications*, and by all policies related to LLSA tests. If they do not regain certification within the required three years, they must reapply to regain certification by passing both the qualifying examination and the oral certification examination.

Former diplomates who must take both certification examinations to regain certification must apply to ABEM and have their application approved before they can register for the qualifying examination. While attempting to regain certification through this option, they will be governed by certification policies and procedures.

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.

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