



Policy on Medical Licensure

BACKGROUND

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) wishes to state its policy regarding its medical licensure requirement.

POLICY

Each physician applying for Emergency Medicine (EM) or subspecialty certification, participating in a certification process, holding current diplomate status with the Board, and/or participating in the Emergency Medicine Continuous Certification (EMCC) process must continuously hold a current, active, valid, unrestricted, and unqualified license to practice medicine in at least one jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada, and in each jurisdiction in which he or she practices.

Exception for New EM Residency Graduates

If a physician applies for EM certification and takes the written certification examination the same year he or she graduates from the residency program, the medical license used to fulfill certification application or written certification examination registration requirements need not be in the jurisdiction in which the physician practices. However, the license must be in a jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada, and it must be current, active, valid, unrestricted, and unqualified.

Clarification of Licenses That Are Not “Current, Active, Valid, Unrestricted, and Unqualified”

A license to practice medicine is not “current, active, valid, unrestricted, and unqualified” if, in any manner or to any extent whatsoever, one or more of the following applies. The license is

- under probation
- conditioned; e.g., the physician is required to practice under supervision or with modification, or to obtain continuing education
- limited; e.g., to specific practice settings
- inactive as a result of an action taken by or a request made by a medical licensing board
- institutional, educational, or temporary.

Additional Medical Licenses

A physician may hold one or more additional licenses to practice medicine. Each additional license held must be unencumbered but may be

- a temporary license, if the reason for its temporary status is that the physician has applied for, but not yet been granted, a new permanent license in that jurisdiction
- an institutional or educational license
- an inactive medical license that is voluntarily inactive
- a permanent license in a jurisdiction in which the physician does not practice.

Previous Licenses

A physician may have expired licenses.

Licenses that were encumbered when they expired and that expired on or after January 1, 2004, do not qualify as meeting the ABEM *Policy on Medical Licensure*.

Licenses that were revoked or suspended on or after January 1, 2004, or that the physician surrendered or did not renew on or after January 1, 2004, as a result of or in order to terminate or settle disciplinary proceedings, do not qualify as meeting the ABEM *Policy on Medical Licensure*.

Reporting Medical Licensure Information to the Board

Each physician applying for Emergency Medicine or subspecialty certification, participating in a certification process, holding current diplomate status with the Board, and/or participating in the EMCC process must report to the Board all licenses he or she currently holds, including all inactive, temporary, and educational licenses, and all licenses previously held that do not meet the ABEM *Policy on Medical Licensure*.

Physicians reporting licenses that have the following conditions must include an explanation of the status of the license:

- the license is encumbered; i.e., invalid, restricted, or qualified
- the license is inactive, whether voluntarily or involuntarily
- the license was encumbered when it expired and it expired on or after January 1, 2004
- the license was revoked or suspended on or after January 1, 2004
- the physician surrendered or did not renew the license on or after January 1, 2004 as a result of or in order to terminate or settle disciplinary proceedings.

The Board may, at its sole discretion, determine whether to investigate the license and the information provided. The Board reserves the right to determine if the license fulfills its policy. The Board will determine if the situation is cause to deny a physician's application, deny a physician access to an examination, or revoke a diplomate's certificate.

If the physician does not report the required information to ABEM, upon investigation, the Board may impose sanctions it determines appropriate, including but not limited to, barring the physician from taking ABEM examinations.

EXCEPTION

See "Exception for New EM Residency Graduates" above.