



## American Board of Emergency Medicine

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March 27, 2020

### Open Letter to ABEM-certified Physicians and EM Residents RE: Recent Actions by ABEM Board of Directors

Dear Colleagues:

The ABEM Board of Directors has taken several immediate actions to help protect your certification. ABEM's continuing certification program is already designed to allow emergency physicians to complete their requirements at any time during the certification cycle. This flexibility allows you to stay certified in a way that best fits your personal schedule. Recently the Board has taken the following actions:

#### Protection of Certification

ABEM has extended the grace period for certification by six months for those physicians whose certificates expire in 2020. This decision was made to consistently allow every diplomate two annual opportunities to take and pass the ConCert examination.

#### Protection of Training Eligibility

ABEM temporarily reduced minimum training requirements to accommodate any two-week period of quarantine without negatively affecting a resident's board eligibility status. ABEM strongly supports nontraditional learning approaches during periods of quarantine. These changes will allow residents to graduate on time and become ABEM certified without delays.

#### Protection of Subspecialty Candidates

ABEM has relaxed deadlines and simplified logistics for recent residency graduates who are pursuing initial certification in emergency medicine at the same time as pursuing subspecialty certification.

#### Provision of Full Refunds

ABEM has waived administrative fees for refunds related to the cancellation of the spring ConCert Exam and the spring Oral Certification Exam. The entire examination fee will be refunded to you upon request. You can also choose to apply your fees to an upcoming examination. There is no financial consequence for either decision.

ABEM, along with every major Emergency Medicine organization, has broadly appealed [for an immediate suspension](#) of all merit badge requirements (e.g., ACLS for staff privileges) during this period and going forward into the future.

ABEM will continuously review its policies during this difficult time and will make further adjustments as needed to accommodate and support its physicians; please refer to the [ABEM website](#) for the most up-to-date information. We hope that these actions will allow you to focus appropriately on work that is needed during this pandemic without having to worry about certification requirements. Thank you for your service to the public and to the specialty during this time of crisis.

Sincerely,

Jill M. Baren, M.D., M.S., M.B.A.  
President