ABEM MOC Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) Test Requirement

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. **What is the ABEM MOC Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment test requirement?** Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) tests are designed to promote continuous learning for certified emergency physicians. Each year, ABEM provides a set of readings and an open-book, self-assessment test based on those readings. Diplomates are required to complete four LLSA tests in the first five years of their certification and four LLSA tests in the second five years of their certification to maintain certification. Beginning with Emergency Medicine (EM) diplomates whose certifications expire in 2017, one of the four required LLSA tests in their first five years of certification is the Patient Safety LLSA. During the phase-in of the Patient Safety LLSA requirement, some EM diplomates will have the requirement in their second five years of their current certification. Please read the Patient Safety LLSA FAQs for details about this activity.

2. **Do I need to take any LLSA tests between now and when my certification expires?** All diplomates are required to complete LLSA tests, regardless of when their certification expires. Because ABEM MOC is in a phase-in period, the number of LLSA tests you are required to complete varies depending on when your certification expires. For information on how to check your specific LLSA test requirements and your current status, view FAQ 3.

3. **How can I find out what my LLSA test requirements are?** To check your specific LLSA test requirements and status:

   1) Click on the “Sign In” button in the upper right corner of the ABEM home page, [www.abem.org](http://www.abem.org) and enter your User ID and Password. If you do not have your User ID or Password, click on the “Need User ID or Password?” link under the sign-in area and provide the requested information. If it matches the information stored in the ABEM database, you will be asked for your email address, and then your User ID will appear on the screen. Your Password will be sent to the email address you provided.

   2) After signing in, you will be directed to your ABEM MOC Personal Page, and be able to view your LLSA requirements.

4. **How do I find the lists of annual LLSA readings?** The lists of LLSA readings, with links to some of the articles, can be accessed through your ABEM MOC Personal Page. Sign in with your User ID and Password and click the “LLSA Activities” button on the left side of the page. From there click on the “See Reading Lists” link. You can also find links to the reading lists on the ABEM public website at [www.abem.org/LLSA-Reading-Lists](http://www.abem.org/LLSA-Reading-Lists). There may be a charge from the individual publisher to access some articles online.

   The readings for the Patient Safety LLSA are included in the activity. You will see the readings after you register for the LLSA and complete the pre-test.
5. **How do I obtain the LLSA reading articles?** See FAQ 4 for locating the reading lists. To actually obtain these articles, here are some suggestions:

- ACEP members have access to the EM LLSA articles at no cost via the ACEP website. [Click here](#) to go directly to the ACEP website.
- Your hospital’s medical library is another source you can use to obtain the articles.
- Some publishers provide direct access to their website, possibly charging a fee or requiring login information to view the article.
- ABEM is aware that third-party providers are using the LLSA reading lists as a basis for CME activities. This is one way that physicians can access all the articles from one source.

Occasionally, as is the case for many book chapters, the publisher will not provide direct access or does not have Internet access to the reading.

Accessibility and fees are at the discretion of the publisher, and are not related to ABEM in any way. ABEM sincerely appreciates the contributions of those publishers that have made the articles and readings easily accessible to ABEM diplomates. All questions regarding fees or login information required to access the articles and readings should be directed to the publisher or organization that published the article or reading.

The readings for the Patient Safety LLSA are included in the activity. You will see the readings after you register for the LLSA and complete the pre-test.

6. **Why does ABEM not provide the LLSA articles?** Journal articles are copyrighted and access to them is regulated by the journals in which they appear. ABEM has chosen to allow diplomates to secure the articles in the manner they feel is most appropriate for them, rather than unilaterally increasing the cost of the program to provide access to those journals that would charge ABEM a fee.

7. **What process does ABEM use to select the LLSA readings?** LLSA test editors, who are members of the ABEM Board of Directors, select the LLSA readings from readings submitted by EM organizations and ABEM diplomates.

More information about the LLSA reading selection process and the criteria that the Board uses to select the annual readings can be found in the following ABEM policies: [Solicitation and Selection of Readings for Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Tests](#), [Policy on Solicitation and Criteria for Selection of Readings for Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment Tests for Medical Toxicology](#), and [Policy on Solicitation and Criteria for Readings for Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment Tests for EMS](#).

8. **What criteria does ABEM use to select LLSA readings?** ABEM has established the following criteria for LLSA readings:

- Clinically oriented in content
- Focused on recent advances or current clinical knowledge in the specialty or subspecialty for which the reading is selected (EM, Emergency Medical Services, or Medical Toxicology).
• Drawn from peer-reviewed EM journals, peer-reviewed journals from related primary specialty or subspecialty fields, textbook chapters, or updated practice guidelines, published in either printed or electronic form
• Related to any content area of the EM Model (for EM LLSAs), The Core Content of EMS Medicine (for EMS LLSAs), or The Core Content of Medical Toxicology (for Medical Toxicology LLSAs)

LLSA readings are designed as learning tools and should be read critically. They are not intended to be all-inclusive and are not meant to define the standard of care for the clinical practice of EM, EMS, or Medical Toxicology. LLSA reading lists may contain readings about new developments or treatments that are currently the focus of discussion or debate within the medical community. ABEM believes it is important that emergency physicians have an informed opinion about such readings.

9. **When are the LLSAs tests posted?** Each April 1 a new EM LLSA test is posted, and it remains posted for three years. A new EMS LLSA test is posted in June of even-numbered years, and remains posted for four years. A new Medical Toxicology LLSA test is posted in June of odd-numbered years and remains posted for four years.

10. **Does completing the LLSA test requirement renew my certification?** No. The LLSA tests are one requirement that must be completed before a certificate is renewed. The other requirements are completing CME, completing and attesting to completion of required Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) activities, passing the Assessment of Knowledge, Judgement, and Skills examination (ConCert™ Examination or MOC Cognitive Expertise Examination), and keeping your medical license(s) in good standing. You can find your requirements for renewing your certification on ABEM MOC Online; see FAQ 3 for information about how to sign in to the site.

11. **After I renew my certification, can previously completed LLSA tests count toward my LLSA test requirement under my new certificate?** No. An LLSA test completed during one ten-year certificate cannot be counted toward LLSA test requirements under another ten-year certificate. Similarly, an LLSA test completed in one five-year certification period cannot count toward the LLSA test requirement in another five-year certification period.

12. **I am a current diplomate; how long do I have to pass an LLSA test?** If you are a current diplomate, the amount of time you have to pass an LLSA test depends on your specific requirements and the type of LLSA test that you wish to take. Each year the newest EM LLSA tests will be posted online April 1 and will remain online for three years. EMS and Medical Toxicology LLSA tests are posted every other year—EMS in even-numbered years and Medical Toxicology in odd-numbered years—and they remain online for four years. You may register for an LLSA test during the three or four years it is active. If you register for an LLSA test while it is active but do not take it, you must complete that LLSA test within five years after registering for it, or it will no longer be available to you.

If your certificate expires and you become a former diplomate who is not eligible to regain certification by making up missed requirements, you will not be able to access any LLSA tests. You can find your LLSA requirements on ABEM MOC Online. See FAQ 3 for instructions.
13. **I am a former diplomate; how long do I have to complete an LLSA test?** If your certification has expired within the last five years and you missed four or fewer LLSA tests while certified, you have an option to regain certification by making up all the requirements you missed during your certification. LLSA tests, IMP activities, and CME can be made up any time of the year. The Assessment of Knowledge, Judgement, and Skills (KJS) examination can be taken during the designated examination administration. For EM, this is the ConCert™ Examination; for EMS and Medical Toxicology, it is the MOC Cognitive Expertise Examination. The missed requirements must be completed by the end of the fifth year after your certificate expired. See the [Policy on Regaining Certification](#) or the Policy on Regaining Subspecialty Certification for more details.

During this five-year opportunity to regain certification, former diplomates may check their specific requirements for renewing their certification on ABEM MOC Online by signing into the ABEM public website to reach their ABEM MOC Personal Page where they can view their requirement grid for each component of ABEM MOC.

If you are a former EM diplomate whose certificate expired more than five years ago, or you missed more than four required LLSA tests during your certification, you must pass the ConCert™ Examination and the Oral Certification Examination to regain your certification. Contact the ABEM office at moc@abem.org or 517-332-4800 ext. 383 to clarify your requirements and to obtain an application form.

If you are a former Medical Toxicology or Pediatric Emergency Medicine diplomate, please consult the ABEM Policy on Regaining Subspecialty Certification. If you have any questions, contact the ABEM office at subspecialties@abem.org or 517-332-4800, extension 387.

14. **Do I need to complete an LLSA test every year?** You do not need to complete an LLSA test every year. A diplomate may choose to complete one each year, or may complete two or even three LLSA tests in a year and then not complete an LLSA test in other years.

15. **Can I view my past LLSA tests after the test is retired?** Yes, LLSA tests you have completed are available to you for viewing after the test retires. You will not be able to view the Patient Safety LLSA test after you complete it.

16. **How do I register for and take an LLSA test?**

1) Click the “Sign In” button in the upper right corner of the ABEM home page, [www.abem.org](http://www.abem.org) and enter your User ID and Password. If you do not have your User ID or Password, click on the “Need User ID and Password?” link under the sign-in area and provide the requested information. If it matches the information stored in the ABEM database, you will be asked for your email address, and then your User ID will appear on the screen. Your Password will be sent to the email address you provided.

2) After you sign in, you will be directed to your ABEM MOC Personal Page.

3) Click on “LLSA Activities” then “Register or Take LLSA Test” on the left side of the screen.

4) Click the “Register” button next to the LLSA test you wish to take and complete the online registration. You will need verify your medical licensure and personal contact
information. Once your registration is complete, you will be able to access the LLSA test, which is based on the corresponding year’s LLSA reading list.

Your registration gives you the opportunity to take and submit that LLSA test up to three times to achieve a passing score. If you are unable to pass the test within that registration’s three attempts, you may re-register for another three attempts.

As long as you are a current diplomate, you can register for an LLSA test until it retires, i.e., three years after an EM LLSA test was first posted or four years after an EMS or Medical Toxicology LLSA test was first posted. You can take the test for five years after you registered for it. If you are a former diplomate, access to an LLSA test may be limited. View the Policy on Regaining Certification for an explanation of LLSA availability for former diplomates.

17. How do I obtain a receipt for my LLSA test payment? While you are signed in to the ABEM website with your User ID and Password, click on “View Payment History” on the left side of the screen. Click the “Print Receipt” button next to the test or examination for which you wish to print a receipt. You may print the receipt using your browser’s print button.

18. Can I get CME credit for passing the LLSA tests? Starting with the 2011 EM LLSA, all ABEM LLSA tests are associated with an optional CME activity. You must register and pay for the CME activity before starting the LLSA test. After passing the test and completing a short survey, diplomates and former diplomates will be able to earn AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Click here for more information.

19. With which LLSA test should I begin? You should probably take the test that is scheduled to be retired on the earliest date; that is, the test with the earliest year in its title. At any given time, there are three EM LLSA tests available on ABEM MOC Online. There are also EMS and Medical Toxicology LLSA tests available. See FAQ 9 for more information about LLSA test availability. You may register for any of the LLSA tests available online.

20. Do I have to complete the LLSA test all in one sitting, or can I access it multiple times? Once you register for an LLSA test, you can complete it all in one sitting, or you can complete it in multiple sittings. Access to the test only counts as an attempt if you choose to score the test. Once you register for an LLSA test, you can take it up to five years after registering for it as long as you meet the eligibility requirements to access LLSA tests.

21. Is there a time limit for taking an LLSA test? The LLSA is not a timed test and you are not required to complete the test in the same sitting in which you start it. Once you have registered for the test, the registration remains in effect until you have passed the test, you have failed it three times, or it is no longer available to you. An LLSA test will no longer be available to you if:

- You have not registered for it, it has been retired, and you do not need that specific test to meet your LLSA requirement to maintain your certification.
- You have registered for the test and more than five years have elapsed since registration.
- You are a former diplomate who is not eligible to regain certification by making up missed requirements.
22. **What if I am disconnected from the Internet or log out without saving while taking an LLSA test?** LLSA test answers are automatically saved and will not be lost. If the test site stays idle too long, you will automatically be logged out for your own security; however, your answers will still be saved.

23. **Can I complete more than my required number of LLSA tests?** Yes, you can take more LLSA tests than the number required. Extra LLSA tests you take during one requirement period do not count toward fulfillment of your next LLSA requirement.

24. **How do I print the LLSA test questions?** LLSA test questions can be printed one at a time by using the keyboard shortcut appropriate for the computer you are using. For Windows-based computers, while viewing a question, hold down the CTRL and P keys at the same time. The “Print” menu box should come up on your screen. For Macs, hold down the Command and P keys at the same time.

Another way to print any view on the screen is to use the “Alt + Print Screen” keys on your keyboard. The “Print Screen” key is often found on the top row of your PC keyboard, to the right of the F keys. The Alt key is on either side of the space bar. First, hold down the “Alt” key and then press the “Print Screen” key once. Then open a new page in a word processing program, such as Word or WordPerfect. Click your cursor on the page and then use the Paste command in that word processing program. A graphic of the screen will be pasted into the page. You can then print that page, and even save the view or several views of screen shots as a document file. The LLSA questions cannot be reproduced or distributed.

25. **How can I go back to review an LLSA test I have previously submitted?** From your ABEM MOC Personal Page, click on “LLSA Activities” on the left side of the screen. Then click “View LLSA Test History” and then the “View” link in the “View Test Results” column for the test you wish to review. You will be able to review the test questions and your responses.

To review the score report from a previously taken test, click “LLSA Activities” on the left side of your ABEM MOC Personal Page. Then click “View LLSA Test History” and then the “View” link in the “View Score Report” column of the test for which you wish to review scores.

26. **Will ABEM tell me which LLSA test questions I missed?** Yes, the score report will show which questions you answered correctly or incorrectly by article, whether you pass or fail the test. Beginning with the 2017 EM LLSA test, rationales for the correct answer to each question are also provided on the score report. However, rationales are only provided once you pass the test. For EM LLSA tests prior to 2017, no rationales will be provided, but the score report will still show which questions you answered correctly and incorrectly by article. Beginning in 2018, score reports for subspecialty LLSA tests will show you which questions you missed and provide correct answer rationales.

27. **Which LLSA tests will provide correct answer rationales?** Correct answer rationales will only be provided on LLSA tests beginning with the 2017 EM LLSA test. The rationale is only provided with passing scores and can be accessed by clicking on the individual question on the breakdown of scores. For EM LLSA tests prior to 2017, no correct answer rationales will be provided, though you can still see which questions you answered correctly and incorrectly on the score report. Beginning in 2018, score
reports for subspecialty LLSA tests will also show you which questions you missed and will provide correct answer rationales.

28. **How do I go back to print my LLSA test certificate or score report?** Sign into your ABEM MOC Personal Page, click on “LLSA Activities” on the left side of the screen, and then click “View LLSA Test History.” Click on the “View” link in either the “View LLSA Certificate” or “View Score Report” column for the test for which you wish to print the report. If you click the “View” link under “View LLSA Certificate,” you have the option to Open or Save the file. Once the certificate is on-screen, you may choose to print it.

If you click the “View” link under “View Score Report” from the Score Report screen, scroll to the bottom of the page and select either “View and Print LLSA Certificate” or “Print LLSA Score Report.” You may print the certificate or score report from there. You can also choose to email your LLSA certificate to any email address you choose.

29. **I cannot print my LLSA certificate.** Be sure you have the most current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. If you do not have the current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader, you may download it for free from the [Adobe website](https://get.adobe.com/). Download directions are provided on their website.

Once you have done this, sign in to your ABEM MOC Personal Page, click on “LLSA Activities” on the left side of the screen, and then “View LLSA Test History.” Click on the “View” link in the “View LLSA Certificate” column for the test whose certificate you wish to print. You will have the option to Open or Save the file. If you choose Open, it will open in Adobe Acrobat Reader. Once the certificate is on-screen, you may choose to print it by clicking on “File,” then “Print” from the top of the screen.

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