



Policy on Regaining Certification in an ABEM-administered Subspecialty

BACKGROUND

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) provides options for physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered subspecialty to regain certification. Under specific circumstances, physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered subspecialty have the opportunity to regain certification by making up requirements missed during certification. If those circumstances do not apply, formerly certified physicians must pass the relevant initial certification examination.

This policy is effective in 2024.

POLICY

All physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered subspecialty regaining certification must continuously maintain medical licensure in compliance with the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure.

Physicians Formerly Certified in an ABEM-administered Subspecialty Whose Certificates Expired Five or Fewer Years Ago and Who Completed at Least Four Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment (LLSA) Tests, or at Least Two of the Relevant Subspecialty's Continuing Certification Modules¹ While Certified

- These formerly certified physicians may regain certification by making up all requirements missed during certification.² Continuing certification modules in the relevant subspecialty can be completed for missed LLSA tests. Physicians may regain by completing four of the relevant subspecialty's continuing certification modules.¹
- If these formerly certified physicians do not make up the missed requirements by the end of the fifth year after their certification expired, they must apply to regain certification and pass four of the relevant subspecialty's continuing certification modules,^{1,3} then pass the subspecialty's certification examination to regain certification.

Physicians Formerly Certified in an ABEM-administered Subspecialty Whose Certificates Expired More than Five Years Ago or Who Completed Four or Fewer Required LLSA Tests or Fewer than Two of the Relevant Subspecialty's Continuing Certification Modules¹ While Certified

- These formerly certified physicians must apply to regain certification and pass the subspecialty's certification examination to regain certification.

¹ One MyEMCert module can be used in place of the relevant subspecialty continuing certification module to meet requirements. The MyEMCert module successfully completed for EMS must be either Trauma and Bleeding or Abnormal Vital Signs and Shock. The MyEMCert module successfully completed for Medical Toxicology must be either Abnormal Vital Signs and Shock or Social and Behavioral Health.

² The number of missed LLSA tests or continuing certification modules is a factor in determining a formerly certified physician's options for regaining certification. A physician formerly certified in an ABEM-administered subspecialty has the option of regaining certification by making up missed requirements, the actual requirements that must be made up could include LLSA tests, continuing certification modules,¹ and practice improvement activity requirements. All unmet requirements must be made up. It is the formerly certified physician's responsibility to verify which requirements he or she missed and must be made up.

Physicians Formerly Certified in an ABEM-administered Subspecialty Whose Certificates Were Revoked Due to Non-compliance with the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure

- If a certificate expires while it is revoked, the formerly certified physician may not regain certification unless his or her medical licensure is determined to meet the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure.
- When a formerly certified physician's medical licensure is determined to meet policy, the method by which he or she may regain certification is determined by the number of years since his or her certificate expired and the LLSA test or continuing certification module requirements missed during certification. See the options listed above for more detail.

Clinical Activity Status for Formerly Certified Physicians Who Regain Certification

ABEM will designate a formerly certified physician who regains certification as "clinically active" regardless of their clinical activity status at the time their previous certification expired. Subspecialty-certified physicians can reset their status to "clinically inactive." Subspecialty-certified physicians who have indicated that they are clinically inactive do not have Improvement in Medical Practice requirements.

PROCEDURES

Physicians Formerly Certified in an ABEM-administered Subspecialty Who Have the Option of Regaining Certification by Making Up Missed Requirements

LLSA tests, continuing certification modules, and practice improvement activities can be made up at any time of year and must be made up by the end of the fifth year after their certification expires. The number of LLSA tests or continuing certification modules¹ needed for a formerly certified physician to regain certification will be made available and will consist of the most recent LLSA tests or the relevant subspecialty's continuing certification modules the physician has not already passed.

When all missed requirements have been completed, a new certificate will be issued with a certification date of the date on which the last missed requirement was completed and with a clinical activity status of "clinically active."

Physicians Formerly Certified in an ABEM-administered Subspecialty Who Must Pass the Relevant Certification Examination to Regain Certification

Physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered subspecialty regaining certification under this option must submit an application, with an application fee. While attempting to regain certification via this option, formerly certified physicians will be governed by the Policy on Maintaining Open and Active Applications to Regain Subspecialty Certification, which requires examination activity at least once every three years to keep the application to regain certification open.

Any physician formerly certified in an ABEM-administered subspecialty regaining certification under this option must pass the relevant subspecialty certification examination. Physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered must attempt the relevant subspecialty's certification examination within three years of applying for their application to remain open to regain certification.

Physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered subspecialty who pass the certification examination will be issued a new certificate dated the date of the examination results letter or December 31 of the year in which the examination was taken, whichever is earlier, and with a clinical activity status of "clinically active."

APPEALS

ABEM maintains an appeal process for physicians formerly certified in an ABEM-administered subspecialty who do not fulfill the requirements described in this policy.

EXCEPTION

None

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