

Maintaining Certification in EMS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- 1. Is my EMS certification time limited?** Yes. Physicians who pass the EMS certification examination are certified in EMS through December 31, ten years after the date of certification.
- 2. Do I have to maintain my primary certification to maintain my EMS certification?** No. However, ABEM believes that physicians who continue to practice Emergency Medicine in addition to their subspecialty should maintain their EM certification. Physicians whose primary certification is in another specialty should check with their primary board.
- 3. What will I have to do to maintain certification in EMS?** Meet the requirements of the EMS continuing certification process, which are:
 - Pass four LLSA tests in years 1–5 of certification and four LLSA tests in years 6–10 of certification.
 - Complete one practice improvement activity in years 1–5 of certification and one practice improvement activity in years 6–10 of certification.
 - Pass the EMS Cognitive Expertise Examination in years 6–10 of certification. (The exam is offered in the fall of odd-numbered years.)
 - Continuously meet the ABEM [Policy on Medical Licensure](#) to fulfill your Professionalism and Professional Standing (PPS) requirement.

You should view your individual requirements and status on your ABEM Personal Page. You will need your ABEM User ID and Password to sign in.

View the [Policy on Required EMS Maintenance of Certification Program Activity](#) for additional information.

- 4. What happens if I do not meet my requirements to maintain certification in EMS?** If you do not meet the EMS continuing certification requirements due at the end of the first five years of certification, you will be designated as “Not Participating in continuing certification” in the EMS subspecialty. If you do not meet the EMS requirements due at the end of the second five years of certification, your certification will expire and you will no longer be certified.

If your medical licensure is found not to be in compliance with the ABEM [Policy on Medical Licensure](#), all ABEM certificates you hold will be revoked.

Information about your certification status is submitted to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and displayed on the ABMS website.

- 5. My primary certification is in Emergency Medicine. May I use my participation in ABEM’s EM continuing certification program to count toward the requirements of EMS continuing certification?** Yes. When you sign in to your ABEM Personal Page, you will see that LLS and IMP activities you complete for your EM continuing certification program count toward your EMS LLS and

IMP requirements as well. You will have access to all ABEM-administered LLSA tests, which when completed, will apply toward any LLSA requirements.

- 6. If my primary certification is through a board other than ABEM, will I participate in EMS continuing certification through my primary board?** No. You will participate in EMS continuing certification through ABEM. However, if you are meeting all the continuing certification requirements of another ABMS specialty or subspecialty in which you are certified, and that program requires completing both LLS and IMP activities, you can choose that program to be your primary continuing certification program. Your EMS LLS requirements and IMP requirements will be considered met via your primary continuing certification program.
- 7. How do I inform ABEM that I am participating in the Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLS) and Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) activities of my primary board's continuing program?** You will be able to use your ABEM Personal Page to indicate that you are participating in and meeting the LLS and IMP requirements of another ABMS Member Board continuing certification process. That program must require completing both LLS and IMP activities. ABEM will contact your primary board to verify your participation in continuing certification.
- 8. I do not have primary certification in Emergency Medicine. How do I enroll in EMS continuing certification?** You are automatically enrolled in EMS continuing certification when you become certified in EMS.
- 9. My primary certification is in Emergency Medicine. Do I have to do anything to begin participating in EMS continuing certification?** No, you are automatically enrolled in the EMS continuing certification process when you become certified in EMS. You will see that activities you have completed for your EM continuing certification count toward your EMS continuing certification program. If you wish to specify EMS as your primary continuing certification program, you will have the opportunity to indicate your preference on your Personal Page. To do so, click "Choose Primary MOC," and then the radio button next to the appropriate certification.
- 10. I hold a lifetime certificate in my primary specialty and am not required to participate in continuing certification. Does this mean I am exempt from the EMS continuing certification process?** No. If you do not currently participate in a continuing certification program with your primary board, you must meet all the requirements of the EMS continuing certification program.
- 11. If I participate in EMS continuing certification, can I count that participation toward my primary board continuing certification program?** If your primary certification is in Emergency Medicine, your participation in EMS continuing certification automatically counts toward your EM LLS and IMP requirements. If your primary certification is not in Emergency Medicine, check with your primary board to determine if participation in EMS continuing certification can count toward your primary certification continuing certification program.