American Board of Emergency Medicine

General ABEM Continuing Certification
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1. **Who should participate in continuing certification?** ABEM’s continuing certification process is required for all ABEM-certified physicians who wish to maintain their certification. The continuing certification process is explained in more detail on the ABEM public website under the heading [Stay Certified](#).

2. **What are my continuing certification requirements? Do I have to do anything before I renew my certification?** All physicians who are currently certified by ABEM have continuing certification requirements. Your individual requirements depend on when your certification expires. To find your requirements:

   - Sign into the ABEM secure portal at the upper-right of the ABEM home page, [www.abem.org](http://www.abem.org). If you do not have your User ID or Password, click the “Need User ID or Password?” link and provide the requested information. If it matches 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.
   - After signing in, you will be directed to your Personal Page.
   - View the requirement grid for each continuing certification component.

   A summary of all your continuing certification requirements can also be found on the “Requirements by Certification End Date” page in the [Stay Certified](#) section of the ABEM website. Click on

3. **What continuing certification requirements will I have after I renew my certification?** Physicians who renew certification will begin a full, new set of requirements they will need to meet to maintain their certification.

4. **How does my level of clinical activity affect my continuing certification requirements?** Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) is designed for ABEM-certified physicians who are caring for patients. Clinically active physicians must complete IMP requirements to maintain certification.

   ABEM-certified physicians who are not seeing patients and who indicate that they are clinically inactive do not have IMP requirements. However, they must participate in the other three components of continuing certification: Professionalism and Professional Standing, Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment, and Assessment of Knowledge, Judgement and Skills.

5. **Can I renew my certification early?** You can complete all of your continuing certification requirements before your certification end date, but your certification will remain in effect until the expiration date on your certificate.

6. **I’ve met all my continuing certification requirements. Why does my ABEM Personal Page still indicate my certification expires at the end of the year?** If you complete your continuing certification requirements early, your current certificate will be valid until its current expiration date. Your new certificate will renew on January 1 the year after your current certificate expires and be valid for ten years.
You will not see any change on your Personal Page until your new certification cycle begins, and you will receive your new certificate near the end of the calendar year in which your current certification expires.

7. **What is the difference between the LLSA tests and the ConCert™ Examination?** Continuing certification includes two different testing elements:

   (1) The Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment (LLSA) tests are annual, online, unproctored, 20- to 30-question, self-assessment tests based on the articles from the LLSA reading lists ABEM posts each year. Each LLSA test corresponds to the reading list of the same year. LLSA tests may be taken on any computer from which you can access ABEM’s secure portal, and may be accessed as many times as you wish for as long as they are available to you. The tests are not timed and can be taken repeatedly.

   (2) The ConCert Examination is a proctored, 5.25-hour examination of approximately 205 multiple choice questions. Physicians must take this examination every ten years as one of the requirements to renew their certification. The ConCert Examination is offered twice each year, in the spring and fall, over a series of specified days, at over 200 computer-based testing centers located throughout the United States and Canada. LLSA questions do not appear on the ConCert Examination.

8. **My certification has expired. What are my options to regain certification?** If it is less than five years since the date your certificate expired and you missed four or fewer LLSA test requirements while you were certified, you may regain certification by making up missed requirements.

   If it has been longer than five years since your certificate expired or you missed more than four LLSA test requirements while certified, you must pass the ConCert Examination and then the Oral Certification Examination to regain certification.

   Review the [Policy on Regaining Certification](#) for more details. Formerly certified physicians who are in the process of regaining their certification must also be in compliance with the [Policy on Medical Licensure](#).

9. **Where do I find the Model of Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine?** The [Model of the Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine](#) serves as the basis for the content specifications for all ABEM examinations, and can be downloaded from the ABEM public website under the Resources tab at the top of the home page.

10. **How do I correct or update personal information on my Personal Page?** From your Personal Access Page you may click the “Update Personal Information” button on the left side of the screen. Once you are on the Profile Information page you can update your contact information.

    Some personal information, such as your name, date of birth, and date of medical school graduation cannot be changed online. To correct these items, scroll to the bottom of the Personal Information page and click the “Update Permanent Information Mail-in Form” link. Print the form, make the appropriate correction, sign the form, and then mail or fax the form to ABEM using the address or fax number provided on the form.

    To change your name with ABEM, you must also submit the following with the form:
1. Your date of birth, and

2. EITHER
   (a) A copy of a court-issued document indicating the name change,
       OR
   (b) In the case of a change due to marriage or divorce, a copy of the marriage license or divorce decree AND a copy of a government-issued document (such as a driver's license or passport) showing that you are using the new name.

11. **How do I update my address with ABEM?** You may update your address, phone, and email information from your Personal Access Page. See [FAQ #2](#) for information.

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