

ABEM Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) Test Requirement FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

- 1. What is the ABEM 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. Physicians 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.
- 2. Do I need to take any LLSA tests between now and when my certification expires?** If you currently have requirements for a ten-year certificate, you will need to complete 4 LLSAs between now and your certification expiration date. See the check requirements tool, [✓ ABEM Regs](#), to see what your specific requirements are.
- 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 "ABEM Portal Sign In" button in the upper-right corner of the ABEM home page, 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 "Forgot 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 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 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 "View Reading Lists" link. You can also find links to the reading lists on the ABEM public website at www.abem.org/LLSA-Reading-Lists. There may be a charge from the individual publisher to access some articles online.
- 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:
 - All physicians currently certified by ABEM have access to the EM LLSA articles (and some EMS, Medical Toxicology, and Pediatric Emergency Medicine 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. 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.

- 6. Why does ABEM not provide the LLSA articles?** Journal articles are copyrighted and access to them is regulated by the publisher of the journals in which they appear. ABEM has chosen to allow physicians 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, Medical Toxicology Subboard, or EMS Subboard, select the LLSA readings from readings submitted by EM organizations and ABEM-certified physicians.

More information about the LLSA reading selection process and the criteria that the Board uses to select the annual readings can be found [on the ABEM website](#).

- 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 print 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)
- 9. When are LLSAs tests posted?** Each April 1 a new EM LLSA test is posted, and it remains posted for five years. A new EMS LLSA test is posted in June of even-numbered years, and remains posted for five years. A new Medical Toxicology LLSA test is posted in June of odd-numbered years and remains posted for five years. Pediatric Emergency Medicine LLSA tests are also available for variable amounts of time (check the [ABEM website](#) for exact dates).
- 10. Do I have to take LLSA tests via the ABEM website, or can I take them through a third-party service, such as EMedHome?** You must take your LLSA tests using the ABEM portal. LLSA requirements are only met when LLSA tests are taken through the ABEM website. Tests taken through another website or a study course do not count.

- 11. Does completing the LLSA test requirement renew my certification?** No. LLSA tests are one requirement that must be completed before a certificate is renewed. The other requirements are completing and attesting to completion of required Practice Improvement activities, passing ConCert™ Examination/Cognitive Expertise Examination OR passing MyEMCert modules, and keeping your medical license(s) in good standing. You can find your requirements for renewing your certification on ABEM's secure portal; see [FAQ 3](#) for information about how to sign into the site.
- 12. I am currently certified by ABEM; how long do I have to pass an LLSA test?** If you are an ABEM-certified physician, 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. See **FAQ 9**. You may register for an LLSA test during the four or five years it is active. If you register for an LLSA test while it is active but do not take it, it will no longer be available to you.
- 13. I am a formerly certified physician; 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 by the end of the fifth year after your certificate expired. During this five-year opportunity to regain certification, formerly certified physicians may check their specific requirements for renewing their certification on the ABEM secure portal to reach their ABEM Personal Page where they can view their requirement grid for each continuing certification requirement. See the [ABEM website](#) and the [Policy on Regaining Certification](#) for more details.
- If you are a formerly certified physician 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 were formerly certified by ABEM in Medical Toxicology or Pediatric Emergency Medicine, please consult the [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 physician 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.
- 16. How do I register for and take an LLSA test?**
- 1) Click "ABEM Portal Sign In" in the upper-right corner of the ABEM home page, www.abem.org and enter your User ID and Password. If you do not have your User ID or Password, click the "Need User ID" or "Forgot 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 Personal Page.
- 3) Click on "Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment" then "Register For LLSA Tests"
- 4) Click the "Add To Cart" button next to the LLSA test you wish to take and complete the online registration. 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 currently certified you can register for an LLSA test until it retires, i.e., five 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 formerly certified physician, access to an LLSA test may be limited. View the [Policy on Regaining Certification](#) for an explanation of LLSA availability for formerly certified physicians.

- 17. Can I get CME credit for passing the LLSA tests?** Yes, most 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, ABEM-certified physicians and formerly certified physicians will be able to earn *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*[™]. [Click here](#) for more information.
- 18. 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 five EM LLSA tests available on ABEM's secure portal. There are also EMS and Medical Toxicology LLSA tests available. See **FAQ 9** for more information about LLSA test availability.
- 19. 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.
- 20. 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 one sitting. 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 formerly certified physician who is not eligible to regain certification by making up missed requirements.

- 21. 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.
- 22. 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.
- 23. How can I go back to review an LLSA test I have previously submitted?** Yes. From your ABEM Personal Page, click "Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment" then "View History." In the "Test Results" column click the "View" link 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, from your ABEM Personal Page click "Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment". Then click "View History" and then the "View" link in the "Score Report" column of the test for which you wish to review scores.

- 24. 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, and whether you passed or failed the test.
- 25. 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 and 2018 subspecialty LLSA tests. 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.
- 26. 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 "Accounts" on the top right side of the screen. Click on "Orders" then "View Receipt" for the receipt you wish to obtain. You may print the receipt using the "Print" button at the top right corner of the screen.
- 27. 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.

28. How do I go back to print my LLSA test certificate or score report? Sign into your ABEM Personal Page, click on "Life Long Learning Self-Assessment", and then "View History." Click the "View" link in either the "LLSA Certificate" or "Score Report" column for the test for which you wish to print the report. If you click the "View" link under "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 "Score Report" from the Score Report screen, scroll to the bottom of the page and select either "View Certificate" or "Print LLSA Score Report." You may print the certificate or score report from there.

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](#). Download directions are provided on their website.

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