

American Board of Emergency Medicine
Online ConCert Examination FAQs

The questions and answers below pertain to the implementation of the [online ConCert Exam](#). They are based on information available as of July 17, 2020.

- 1. When in 2020 can I take the exam?** In 2020, the ConCert Exam will be offered in the summer and the fall. Exam and registration dates for the 2020 administrations are available on the [Exam Dates and Fees](#) page of the ABEM website. There will be a three-week period during each administration that you can take the exam. **You do not need to schedule an exam time prior to taking the exam. You can take the exam anytime during either the summer or fall exam window. ABEM will send you information about how to access the exam and a reminder when the testing window opens.**

In 2021 and 2022, the exam will be offered in the spring and the fall. The dates of the 2021 and 2022 ConCert administration and registration periods are yet to be determined. Please check the [ABEM website](#) for the most recent information.

ABEM is relaxing the timeline in recognition of the unprecedented situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. If your certification expires December 31, 2020, you have an additional six months—until June 30, 2021—to complete your requirements, including taking and passing the ConCert Exam.

- 2. If I was registered for the spring 2020 exam and choose to take the exam in the summer or fall this year, do I need to register again?** No. If you were already registered for the spring ConCert Exam and did not request a refund, you do not need to register again; just take the exam during one of the three-week testing windows. ABEM will send you information about how to access the exam and a reminder when the testing window opens.
- 3. If I haven't already done so, when will I be able to register for the 2020 online administrations of the ConCert Exam?** Registration for the fall ConCert Exam will be open August 31 – October 19. The exam will be administered November 2-22. Check the ABEM website for updates.
- 4. Can I take the ConCert from home?** Yes, you can take the test online at a place of your choosing.
- 5. What resources can I use during the exam?** The exam is open book; you can use whatever resources you wish, except for colleagues and other fellow test takers (see FAQ 7) Also, UpToDate® will be accessible to you on the testing screen while you are taking the exam.
- 6. Is UpToDate® the primary reference used to develop ConCert Exam questions?** No. UpToDate® is a resource that ABEM is providing as a convenience to you while taking ConCert. Since the exam is open book, you may use your preferred reference material though you must take the exam by yourself and not collaborate with others. ConCert test questions are based on a variety of references, including textbooks, peer-reviewed journals, and published practice guidelines.

- 7. Can I ask a colleague for help?** No. ConCert is a secure exam. You cannot ask others for help nor can you take the test in a group setting similar to what ABEM allows for the LLSAs. ABEM is using a number of security methods to detect unauthorized copying of questions or sharing of information externally. Cheating could result in lifetime revocation of your ABEM certification.
- 8. How long will I have to complete the exam?** You will have 5.25 hours to complete the exam. Actual testing time will be approximately 4 hours and 45 minutes with 30 minutes for other activities, such as an honor code attestation, test tutorial, and an optional end-of-exam survey. Relative to the current ConCert Examination, this allows an additional 30 minutes of testing time for breaks and referencing outside resources.
- 9. Do I need to complete the exam all in one sitting?** When taking the ConCert Examination, the Board's expectation is that it is taken in one sitting with short breaks. You should do your best to schedule a time while you will not be interrupted and create a distraction free environment for yourself. That said, the Board has already increased testing time to account for breaks and allow for potential distraction introduced by taking the test at home. However, for anyone not able to take the examination in one sitting for whatever the reason, you can logout when you would like to stop and the exam timer will stop. When you want to continue, log in and the test and timer will resume where you left off—just be sure to complete the examination in a timely manner as soon as you are able.
- 10. How many questions are on the exam?** The examination will contain 190 multiple choice questions.
- 11. Will there be a proctor observing me take the exam?** No, there will be no proctoring for the online ConCert. Physicians taking the exam will attest to an honor code. Any cheating could result in severe penalties, including lifetime revocation of your ABEM certification. ABEM will be monitoring the Internet for any illicit distribution of exam questions in violation of ABEM copyright.
- 12. How much will the exam cost?** *There is no added cost to taking the exam online.* The exam registration fee remains \$1,950.
- 13. When will I get my score?** Due to the change in the type of administration, physicians will receive their scores no later than 90 days from the last day of the administration.
- 14. My certification expires at the end of 2020. What if I take the summer or fall exam but don't pass it?** Physicians whose board certification ends in 2020 have until June 30, 2021, to complete their requirements to maintain their certification, which provides an additional opportunity to take the ConCert Exam in spring 2021.
- 15. My certification expires in 2025, and I have five-year requirements due at the end of 2020. Do I have until June 30, 2021, to complete them and still be considered "participating in continuing certification?"** Yes, you have until June 30, 2021, to complete your LLSA and IMP activity requirements.

- 16. How long will it take me to get a refund from the canceled spring 2020 ConCert Exam if I request a refund?** ABEM will process your refund as soon as possible. We expect it to take 7 to 10 business days.
- 17. When MyEMCert begins, will I still have the option of recertifying using the online ConCert?** If you are in the last five years of certification, you will have the option of taking the online ConCert to maintain your certification through the 2022 exam administrations. After 2022, you must participate in MyEMCert to maintain your certification.
- 18. Why won't the ConCert Exam be available as an option to renew certification after 2022?** ABEM is committed to transforming the specialty through a more formative assessment process—MyEMCert. We heard from 80 percent of ABEM-certified physicians who responded to our survey that MyEMCert was the preferred way to recertify emergency physicians. A high-stakes, ten-year exam is no longer consistent with ABEM's preferred philosophy for assessing physicians.
- 19. Why doesn't ABEM remove the exam as a requirement?** To stay certified by ABEM, physicians must demonstrate that they are meeting a national standard. Until recertification can be attained through MyEMCert in 2022, the ConCert Exam is how physicians can demonstrate that they are meeting that standard.

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