



Policy on Third-Party Standards

BACKGROUND

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) wishes to clearly state its position regarding requirements that go beyond ABEM specialty certification and continuing certification. These include institutional requirements such as short course completion or mandatory continuing medical education (CME) credits in a specified content area of Emergency Medicine. ABEM unequivocally states that ABEM certification and ABEM continuing certification supersede any perceived need for credentials that are established by third party standards. Specifically, it is unnecessary for an ABEM-certified physician who is actively participating in ABEM's continuing certification process to also acquire and maintain credentialing by third parties through short courses such as Advanced Pediatric Life Support (APLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), or Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), in addition to a specific number of CME hours in a specified content area of Emergency Medicine.

This does not negate the responsibility of the Emergency Physician to be engaged in continuous professional development through ABEM's continuing certification process. This continued learning and development should reflect the physician's professional needs in such a way as to enhance the care that is being delivered to the patient. Specifically, physicians should adjust their continuing certification and CME participation in such a way as to meet patient needs in their practice settings.

POLICY

ABEM believes that the acquisition and certification of knowledge and skills as described in *The Model of the Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine* (EM Model) are best assured by the completion of an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education–accredited Emergency Medicine residency program combined with the successful completion of the ABEM initial certification examinations and participation in ABEM's continuing certification process. Board certification and continuing certification demonstrate comprehensive training, knowledge, and skill in the practice of Emergency Medicine. Certificates of short course completion may serve as evidence of focused review; however, the content of such courses is part of the EM Model, and ABEM certification supersedes evidence of completion of such courses. Additionally, continuing certification requires mandatory, secure, high-stakes, psychometrically valid retesting, making short-course completion redundant.

Accordingly, for ABEM-certified physicians who are participating in continuing certification, ABEM strongly opposes the use of certificates of completion of courses such as APLS, ACLS, ATLS, or other similar courses, *or* the completion of a specific number of CME hours in a specified content area of Emergency Medicine, as requirements for privileges, employment, or qualification by hospitals, city or state agencies, or any other credentialing organization to provide care for designated disease entities encompassed by the practice of Emergency Medicine.

EXCEPTION

None