

## **Professionalism and Professional Standing FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

- 1. What is my continuing certification Professionalism and Professional Standing requirement?** While you are certified by ABEM and if you are in the process of regaining certification, you must continuously meet the [ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure](#) to fulfill your ABEM [Professionalism and Professional Standing requirement](#).
- 2. What do I have to do to meet the ABEM Medical Licensure requirement?** You must continuously hold a medical license in a jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada that is valid, full, unrestricted, unqualified, current, and active. You may hold other licenses provided that they are valid, full, unrestricted, and unqualified. Medical licenses need not be active or current, but if inactive, must be voluntarily inactive.
- 3. What does not count as a “current” or “active” medical license?**
  - A license that has expired without renewal; for purposes of fulfilling ABEM policy, the license must have been in good standing when it expired.
  - A license that has been placed on inactive status; for purposes of fulfilling ABEM policy, the license must have been placed on inactive status voluntarily, not made inactive as a result of an action taken by a medical licensing board or to avoid an action being taken.
- 4. What does not count as a “valid,” “full,” “unrestricted,” or “unqualified” license?**
  - A license that is under probation
  - A license that is conditioned; e.g., the physician is required to practice under supervision or with modification or to obtain continuing education
  - The license is limited to specific practice settings
  - An institutional, educational, or temporary license
- 5. Can I hold more than one license?** Yes. You must hold at least one license in a jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada that is current, active, valid, full, unrestricted and unqualified. You may also hold other licenses. They all must be valid, full, unqualified, and unrestricted, but need not be current or active.
- 6. Is it acceptable for my medical license to be outside the U.S., its territories, or Canada?** Yes. ABEM will review, on a case-by-case basis, the medical license(s) of ABEM-certified physicians who are practicing medicine outside the United States, its territories, or Canada who only have a medical license from the location in which they are practicing. These physicians must submit specific information to assist ABEM in its review and independent verification of the medical license. Specifically, the physician must include a statement describing their foreign medical practice, their intention for the length of that practice, and provide a copy of their foreign medical license. The physician must also submit appropriate documentation from the relevant licensing authority that their license is in good standing and without conditions or restrictions. This option is limited to physicians in

the continuing certification process and is not an option for physicians in the initial certification process.

- 7. Do I need to report all my medical licenses, even expired ones?** Yes. You must report to ABEM all licenses you currently hold and any licenses you held previously.
- 8. I have a foreign license. Do I need to report it to ABEM?** Yes. However, if you are practicing EM in the U.S., its territories, or Canada, and you have a license in another country, it will not be counted for or against you (an ABEM applicant, candidate, or ABEM-certified physician) in determining if you have fulfilled the requirements for medical licensure. ABEM will review, on a case-by-case basis, the medical license(s) of ABEM-certified physicians who are practicing outside the U.S., its territories, or Canada, who only have a medical license from the foreign country in which they are practicing.
- 9. When should I update my license(s) with ABEM?** You are asked to update your medical license information during the registration process for an LLSA test or ConCert™ Examination, or when you attest to completion of an Improvement in Medical Practice activity. You may also update your medical licensure at any time by logging in to ABEM's secure portal and clicking the "Update Medical Licensure" button on your ABEM Personal Page.
- 10. How do I update my license(s) with ABEM?** If no changes are needed to your medical licensure information, you may click the "Verify" button to verify all of your licenses at once.

If you need to **change** information about a medical license listed on the screen, click the "Update" button next to the license displayed, then complete the required information. If you indicate that the license meets ABEM policy, you will complete verification of that license, but must update or verify any other licenses listed. Clicking the "Verify" button will verify all other listed licenses at once.

If you need to **add** a medical license, click the "Add a License" button and complete the information requested. If you indicate that the license meets ABEM policy, you will complete verification of that license, but must update or verify any other licenses listed.

- 11. What if my medical licensure does not meet ABEM policy?** You must report to ABEM when your medical licensure does not meet policy. If you hold or previously held the license, log in to ABEM's secure portal and add or update the license, indicating that it does not meet policy, and providing an explanation. This will block your access to ABEM examination registration until you contact ABEM to discuss the situation. If you do not hold any medical license in the U.S., its territories, or Canada, you may notify ABEM directly.
- 12. What happens if there is an action against my license?** Physicians who have reported actions against their medical license(s), or for whom ABEM has received information from a third party verification agency regarding actions against a license, will be notified by ABEM. ABEM will investigate the issues and notify physicians concerning their ability to participate in ABEM continuing certification activities, including continued certification.

- 13. Do I need to report to ABEM any action imposed on my license?** Yes. You should report to ABEM all actions imposed on your medical licenses. If you do not report this information to ABEM, ABEM will determine if the situation is cause to deny you access to an examination, invalidating an examination you took, or revoking your certificate.
  
- 14. If my certificate is revoked due to issues with my medical licensure, what happens to my participation in ABEM continuing certification?** If your certificate is revoked, you will not be able to participate in ABEM's continuing certification process unless or until your licensure issues are fully resolved and your certificate is reinstated.
  
- 15. I have a colleague in another specialty who must obtain endorsements from peers. Does ABEM have this requirement?** ABEM does not currently require endorsements or peer surveys.

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