

American Board of Emergency Medicine

Sports Medicine Certification and Continuing Certification of ABIM-certified Physicians by ABEM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Beginning in 2023, the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) will no longer offer certification for Sports Medicine. Physicians looking to earn a Sports Medicine certification will need to go through the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM). ABIM physicians who currently hold a Sports Medicine certification will maintain their certification through ABEM.

- 1. Why is this change happening?** Earning and maintaining a Sports Medicine certification through ABEM will enhance the Sports Medicine initial certification and continuing certification process for ABIM-certified physicians and assist them in maintaining a high level of knowledge, judgment, and skills in Sports Medicine. The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approved ABIM to move from being a co-sponsoring board to a qualifying board in Sports Medicine. This means that all Sports Medicine certification standards and activities will move from ABIM to ABEM.
- 2. When does this change go into effect?** ABEM will be the certifying board for all ABIM Sports Medicine-certified physicians from the approved qualifying boards starting January 2023.
- 3. How will I transition to ABEM for Sports Medicine certification?** ABIM-certified physicians with a Sports Medicine certification will be able to register with ABEM via ABEM's secure portal. ABEM will email instructions to all ABIM Sports Medicine-certified physicians with a current Sports Medicine certification regarding secure portal registration. After registering in the ABEM secure portal, ABIM-certified physicians will be able to select the option of either maintaining their Sports Medicine certification or allowing it to expire.
- 4. Do I need to complete ABIM's MOC program requirements for 2022 to retain my Sports Medicine certificate by 12/31/22?** Yes, ABIM-certified physicians with a Sports Medicine certification must be up to date with their ABIM MOC requirements for 2022 to maintain their Sports Medicine certification.
- 5. Will I still be certified with ABIM?** Beginning in 2023, ABIM-certified physicians with an ABIM Sports Medicine certification will no longer be certified in Sports Medicine by ABIM. All Sports Medicine certifications will be transferred to ABEM. Underlying certification or other subspecialty certification(s) with ABIM can continue to be maintained as long as all MOC program requirements continue to be met. It is the physician's choice whether to maintain their certifications or allow them to expire.
- 6. Will I need to do continuing certification for both boards if I also choose to maintain a certification with ABIM?** Yes. ABIM-certified physicians with an ABIM certification will be required to continue to participate in [ABIM's MOC program](#) and complete all MOC requirements. To help streamline MOC requirements, ABIM

offers reciprocity credit for ABIM-certified physicians who are dual boarded with another ABMS Member Board. This credit will waive ABIM's MOC points requirement.

ABIM-certified physicians who are eligible to receive this reciprocal credit will see a feature box at the bottom of their ABIM Physician Portal that they can click on to begin attesting to being currently certified by and participating in the other Board's MOC program.

ABIM-certified physicians still need to meet their [ABIM MOC requirements](#): maintaining a valid, unrestricted, and unchallenged medical license, passing a secure ABIM MOC assessment, including the new [Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment](#), and meeting any other ABIM-specific subspecialty procedural requirements.

ABIM will email all pertinent details to physicians who want to maintain their certification. For any ABIM MOC requirement questions, please email request@abim.org or call 1-800-441-ABIM.

ABEM diplomates should contact ABEM at subspecialties@abem.org or 517-332-4800, option 4, for more information about their board's reciprocity policy and MOC program.

- 7. Do I still need to pay my ABIM MOC fee before my Sports Medicine is transitioned to ABEM?** Yes. Please sign in to your [ABIM Physician Portal](#) to confirm your annual MOC fees are up to date.
- 8. How much will it cost to maintain my Sports Medicine certification with ABEM?** Please contact ABEM (subspecialties@abem.org or 517-332-4800, option 4) for information on subspecialty continuing certification fees.
- 9. Who can I contact at ABEM if I have additional questions or need assistance with Sports Medicine registration, fees, or other Sports Medicine-related matters?** Please email ABEM at subspecialties@abem.org or call 517-332-4800, option 4, if you have additional questions.

September 2022

