ABEM: Always Innovating and Listening to You

Just as the clinical practice of Emergency Medicine (EM) evolves, ABEM’s requirements for certification and recertification also evolve. ABEM is constantly examining its requirements and processes to see where they can be made more relevant, easier, and more efficient for you. ABEM has been very successful in recent years streamlining and aligning its requirements to fit your professional activities. The changes we have made are based on your feedback, careful analysis of activity reporting and performance, monitoring the latest research developments in cognitive learning and testing science, and over 20,000 physician survey responses every year.

On the certification front, the eOral format to the Oral Certification Examination is a bold new testing method that more closely replicates the clinical environment. More recently, the In-training Examination has transitioned to an online format that is nearly identical in format to the written Qualifying Examination. Computer-based testing provides residency programs additional flexibility, and will hopefully decrease administrative tasks.

Improvements have been made to the Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLS) component of the ABEM MOC Program. LLSA tests have had the longest history of

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From the President continued

innovation and more improvements are on the way. Thanks to your feedback, the LLSA test requirement is one of the most dynamic elements of the ABEM MOC Program. When first introduced, LLSA tests included about 30-35 questions derived from specific, predetermined content areas of the EM Model using 20 articles, with the content then used on the ConCert™ Examination. LLSA tests evolved to include fewer questions, allowed questions from any content area of the EM Model, and de-linked questions from the ConCert™ Exam. More recent changes include:

- An optional, low-cost CME activity (with the help of our CME providers AAEM and ACEP)
- Development of an EMS LLSA, a Medical Toxicology LLSA, and a Pediatric Emergency Medicine LLSA
- Ability to take any subspecialty LLSA test to fulfill the EM LLSA test requirement
- Providing the rationales for the answers to LLSA test questions

You might have also noticed that ABEM-certified physicians no longer need to attest to participating in eight self-assessment CME credits. This change was triggered from a single physician’s suggestion. Because LLSA tests are themselves self-assessment activities, the annual requirement is automatically met when an LLSA test is successfully completed. Also based on your feedback, we recently discontinued the Patient Safety LLSA requirement in favor of incorporating patient safety-related articles on an ongoing basis into existing LLSA tests.

Future innovations will allow test takers to select the annual readings they wish from a larger set of readings. The reading lists will also include optional fill-in-the-blank questions based on each article on the list to help you focus on key points in any article. Learning research has shown that this simple change substantially improves content retention and improved material recall.

Recent changes to the Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) component of the MOC program have been significant. ABEM performs a detailed analysis of every reported quality improvement activity and annually adjusts its drop-down menus. ABEM revises the menus every year to reflect current changes in Joint Commission and CMS standards, EM Core Metrics, and other established quality measures. Changes to drop-down menus result in easier reporting of your activity as well as identifying emerging quality activities for the specialty. As physicians begin to report
quality performance through registries, an easy process will allow credit for IMP requirements for these activities. ABEM has worked with ACEP to build a link between the Clinical Emergency Data Registry (CEDR) and ABEM so that participation in CEDR can easily provide credit for IMP.

ABEM initiated a pilot to no longer require physicians to report that they are taking part in patient satisfaction surveys. ABEM-certified physicians have welcomed this change.

With an eye to further innovation, ABEM has been asking ABEM-certified physicians about their experiences with the ConCert™ Examination. In response, ABEM convened a special Board of Directors meeting aimed at developing potential improvements or alternatives to the ConCert™ Exam. The Board meeting was followed by a ConCert™ Summit. The Summit, which included representatives from every major EM organization, provided additional information about physician concerns and identified potential improvements to the exam. Suggestions from the Summit will be considered by the Board of Directors. We expect to update the Emergency Medicine community about any changes in early 2018.

ABEM will never stop innovating. We will continue to seek better ways to serve the specialty, our patients, and ABEM-certified emergency physicians. Your suggestions have made a difference and are critical to future innovations. We encourage you to continue sending us your suggestions for improvement.

As a public trust organization, ABEM has a primary obligation to the public. ABEM’s mission is to ensure the highest standards in the specialty of Emergency Medicine. ABEM will always insist on the highest standards for physician assessment, namely, clinically relevant, psychometrically valid, rigorous assessments measured against national standards. In this way, your ABEM certification will be the greatest professional credential you ever acquire.
Projects and Activities

Promote Your Certification

A logo for ABEM-certified physicians is now available to help promote your credential and demonstrate your commitment to ensuring the highest standards in the specialty of Emergency Medicine. The logo has been created in response to requests from ABEM-certified physicians. The images can be used on printed and electronic materials. To download the logo, sign in to your Personal Page at www.abem.org and click the "Promote Your Certification" tab on the left navigation bar.

2017-2018 Executive Committee

At its summer 2017 meeting, ABEM elected the following directors to the 2017-2018 Executive Committee (pictured below from left to right): Terry Kowalenko, M.D., President; Robert L. Muellemann, M.D., President-Elect; Michael L. Carius, M.D., Immediate-Past-President; Jill M. Baren, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer; O. John Ma, M.D., Member-at-Large; Kerryann B. Broderick, M.D, Senior Member-at-Large.

Retiring Board Member

ABEM wishes to thank Barry N. Heller, M.D., who recently completed his term on the Board of Directors. Dr. Heller’s first term began in 2008, and he served as President of the Board in 2015-2016. In addition, Dr. Heller provided leadership in a variety of roles, including as examination editor, chief examiner for the Oral Certification Examination, and Chair of the Test Administration Committee. He will continue to serve the Board as a senior director, oral examiner, and participant in the Residency Visitation Program. Thank you again for your service, Dr. Heller!
Emergency Medicine Board Eligibility

As of January 1, 2015, ABEM recognized the term board eligible. Board eligibility is a five-year period that starts on the date a physician graduates from an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada–accredited EM residency program, or an ABEM-approved combined residency program. For physicians who were in the certification process on January 1, 2015, or who graduated prior to that date and have not applied for certification, their board eligibility began January 1, 2015. Physicians will not have any additional eligibility requirements under the policy if they apply for certification, take and pass the first Qualifying Examination available to them, and take and pass the first Oral Certification Examination assigned to them. If there is a delay in any of these three activities, physicians will have additional requirements (LLSA tests and CME) until they become board certified. Details are available on the ABEM website at www.abem.org/Board_Eligibility.

Physicians should not rely solely on ABEM reminders, as they are subject to all requirements and policies irrespective of whether they receive a reminder.

If you have questions, please email BoardElig@abem.org or call 517-332-4800, ext. 384.

Subspecialty Board Eligibility

On January 1, 2018, ABEM will begin recognizing the term “board eligible for subspecialty certification.” Board eligibility for subspecialty certification starts when a physician completes his or her training or practice required to meet the ABEM subspecialty eligibility criteria and ends when the physician achieves subspecialty certification. If a physician does not become subspecialty certified, board eligibility ends seven years after it started, or through four administrations of the subspecialty initial certification examination, whichever is longer.

To be considered subspecialty board eligible, a physician must be certified by an ABMS Member Board and designated as participating in MOC for their primary ABMS certification. Physicians who lose ABEM subspecialty board eligible status may become board eligible again by successfully completing additional ACGME–accredited fellowship training. The additional training must consist of at least half of the time of the subspecialty fellowship training as outlined in the ABEM eligibility criteria for the subspecialty at the time the physician loses their subspecialty board eligible status. If you have questions, please email Subspecialties@abem.org, or call 517-332-4800, ext. 387.

Online ITE

The 2018 In-training Examination (ITE) will be an online exam administered from Tuesday, February 27 through Saturday, March 3. Residency programs have the option of holding the exam in a single testing session on a single day, or in multiple testing sessions across a single day or multiple days. As a result of the expanded testing window, the rules about discussing exam questions have been updated. Conversations about test questions cannot take place until after the entire five-day testing window is over, no matter when the program completes its administration.

As with all ABEM examinations, residents will have the opportunity to respond to a survey about their testing experience. Based on resident feedback to last year’s exam, development staff and exam editors made a concerted effort to optimize and enlarge the size of the question stimuli that appeared on the online ITE.
Notices

**Fees Remain Fixed for 2017**

For the fifth consecutive year, ABEM has not increased its examination fees.

**ACCM and EMS Practice Pathways Closing**

The practice pathway for Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine (ACCM) will close in 2018 on the final date of the 2018 ACCM application cycle. To be considered for eligibility under this pathway, all training and practice must be completed by June 30, 2018.

The practice pathway for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will close July 1, 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact subspecialties@abem.org, or 517-332-4800, ext. 387.

**See You at ACEP17!**

If you will be attending ACEP17 in Washington, D.C., stop by the exhibit hall and visit the ABEM booth (#2019). Members of the ABEM Board of Directors and ABEM staff will be there to answer questions and hear your suggestions. See you there!

**Call for Director Nominations**

The Board of Directors will elect two new members at its February 2018 meeting. Nominations must be submitted to ABEM by December 1, 2017. Learn more at www.abem.org/Nominations.
Maintenance of Certification (MOC)
An ABMS Maintenance of Certification® Program

MOC requirements are available on your Personal Page. Go to www.abem.org and sign in using your User ID and Password. If you have any questions, email moc@abem.org, or call 517-332-4800, ext. 383.

PS-LLSA Requirement Ending

In response to your feedback, ABEM will no longer require that diplomates complete the Patient Safety LLSA (PS-LLSA). Patient safety-related topics will be included in EM and subspecialty LLSAs.

If you have registered for but not completed the PS-LLSA activity, you will have until March 1, 2018, to complete it.

If you have registered for the PS-LLSA and did not complete the activity, you have the option to request that your test fee be applied to another LLSA. For those who signed up for the associated CME activity, the CME fee can also be transferred. This is a one-time exception to the ABEM Policy on Fees. All requests should be sent to moc@abem.org and must be received by June 30, 2018. Please include your name and let us know the LLSA you would like to take instead of the PS-LLSA.

Even though the PS-LLSA requirement is ending, completion of the PS-LLSA will continue to count toward the four LLSAs needed every five years to meet the LLSA requirement.

LLSA Updates

Thanks to physician feedback, the LLSA test requirement is one of the most dynamic elements of the ABEM MOC Program. ABEM welcomes your suggestions for improvements. Ideas can be sent to examcontent@abem.org.

Any ABEM LLSA test—Emergency Medicine, EMS, Medical Toxicology, or Pediatric Emergency Medicine—can be used toward your EM or subspecialty LLSA test requirements.

Reasoning for Answers to LLSA Test Questions Provided

The reasoning behind the correct answers to EM LLSA test questions are being provided to test takers beginning with the 2017 EM LLSA test. Reasoning behind the correct answers to subspecialty LLSAs will be available beginning in 2018. The rationales will be available after you pass the test. In addition, score reports for all available ABEM LLSAs now show which questions were answered correctly or incorrectly.

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Pediatric Emergency Medicine LLSA Available

Need to brush up on Pediatric EM? A new Pediatric Emergency Medicine LLSA became available June 1. The LLSA can be used toward the four LLSAs required during each of your five-year certification periods.

LLSA Tests to Retire

The 2015 EM LLSA test and CME activity will be retired March 31, 2018.

The 2014 EMS LLSA test will be retired on June 1, 2018.

If you start a test prior to the date it expires, you can complete the test after that date.

Update: Coalition to Oppose Medical Merit Badges

The Coalition to Oppose Medical Merit Badges (COMMB), a group of all major Emergency Medicine organizations, continues its work:

- Coalition members have discussed potential ways to assist emergency physicians educate hospital credentialing committees about merit badges.
- A joint policy statement will be developed that describes how residency training, board certification, and continuing certification make merit badges unnecessary.
- Letters will be available to EM board-certified physicians participating in MOC to download from the ABEM or AOBEM websites (accessible to ABEM-certified physicians from their Personal Page).
- A general letter will be available first, and over time, additional letters will be developed that are tailored to specific requirements (i.e., ACLS).

Coalition members are in the process of identifying organizations, including other medical specialty boards and societies, with which they can partner to affect change about medical merit badges. The current list of participating organizations is available at www.abem.org/meritbadges.

Take the ConCert™ Early Retain Your Current Certificate Date

You can take the ConCert™ Examination during the last five years of your certification (during the annual testing window). If you pass the exam early, you will still retain your certification until the expiration date on your current certificate. This is also true even after you complete all of your MOC requirements. When your current certification expires, you will be issued a new, ten-year certificate.

If you take the ConCert™ Examination early and do not pass, you still retain your certification and have another chance(s) to pass it. ABEM only reports whether a physician is board certified and participating in MOC.

This year, 44 percent of ConCert™ test takers registered to take the exam early; that is, in a year prior to their final year of certification.
Obtain MOC Credit through CEDR

A systems integration between ACEP and ABEM allows participants in ACEP’s Clinical Emergency Data Registry (CEDR) to fulfill their MOC Practice Improvement (Part IV) requirement. To do so, follow these steps:

- Sign in to ACEP’s website (www.acep.org).
- Review your performance on the CEDR dashboard and ‘opt-in’ to share your CEDR participation activity with ABEM.
- Six months must elapse between your CEDR dashboard sign-ins. Therefore, ABEM board-certified physicians who need Practice Improvement credit within a calendar year must initially sign in to CEDR prior to June 30 of that year.
- Allow six months to ensure any substantive changes in your clinical practice have been accounted for in CEDR reporting and re-review your performance on the CEDR dashboard a second time to compare your performance.
- ABEM will receive notification each time you review your data, but will not have access to your individual performance on any CEDR measure. ABEM will not use this data to analyze individual performance.

You do not need to be an ACEP member to participate in CEDR. As long as your hospital, hospital system, or physician group participates in CEDR, you can create an ACEP website account.

If you have any questions, please email moc@abem.org or call 517-332-4800, ext. 383.

Does Your Certification Expire in 2017?

If your certification expires in 2017, you must complete your MOC requirements by December 31, 2017, to renew your certification. Remember, you can pass the ConCert™ Examination and not have your certification renewed if you have outstanding LLSA tests, CME credits, or Improvement in Medical Practice requirements.

Does Your Certification Expire in 2022?

If your certification expires in 2022, you have MOC requirements due by December 31, 2017. By that date, you must have:

- Passed 4 LLSA tests
- Completed and attested to an average of 25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ per year
- Completed and attested to 1 Practice Improvement activity

If you do not complete your unmet MOC requirements by this date, you will not lose your ABEM certification; however, ABEM is required to designate and publicly report that you are “not participating in MOC.”

To find out your requirements, go to www.abem.org, and sign in using your UserID and Password.
During the opening General Session at each Oral Certification Examination (OCE) administration, ABEM presents awards to oral examiners based on the number of examinations in which they have participated. ABEM recognized 23 examiners at the spring 2017 OCE. The Board of Directors sincerely appreciates the many contributions these individuals have made over their years of service to ABEM’s examination process. The awards were presented by Barry N. Heller, M.D., Chair of the Test Administration Committee, and Jill M. Baren, M.D., Vice-Chair of the Test Administration Committee, on behalf of the Board.

CLOCK – 8 Exams
Dr. Heller, (left) and Dr. Baren (fifth from left) presented the award to James Miner, M.D.; Binh T. Ly, M.D.; Stephen R. Hayden, M.D.; Benson Yeh, M.D.; Catherine A. Cummings, M.D.; Jeffrey P. Caporossi, M.D.; Resa E. Lewiss, M.D.; Marynell Jelinek, M.D.; and Larry O. Smith, M.D. Not pictured: Andrew D. Jenis, M.D.; and John A. Tafuri, M.D.

PLAQUE – 16 Exams

HOURGLASS – 24 Exams
Dr. Baren (left) and Dr. Heller (right) presented the award to Sanford H. Koltonow, M.D.

TELESCOPE – 40 Exams
Dr. Baren (left) and Dr. Heller (right) presented the award to James H. Jones, M.D.
**Reference and Access Information**

Reference information appears in many ABEM publications and on the ABEM website. ABEM updates this information periodically. For the most current information on Board policies; application, registration and examination dates; statistics; and other items of interest, please visit [www.abem.org](http://www.abem.org) or contact ABEM at 517-332-4800.

### Examination Dates 2017-2018

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American Board of Emergency Medicine
3000 Coolidge Road
East Lansing, MI 48823-6319
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

KEEP YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION ACCURATE AT www.abem.org

ABEM needs your current email, mailing address, and other contact information to help you keep your certification current.

ABEM sends reminder letters by email only to candidates and ABEM-certified physicians for whom we have valid email addresses. Update your personal information by signing into the ABEM website and selecting Personal Information.

You may also update your contact information using the form below. Email the form to AddressUpdate@abem.org, fax it to 517-332-4853, or mail it to ABEM at 3000 Coolidge Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823-6319.

PLEASE PRINT

Effective Date_________________________  Date of Birth_________________________

Name______________________________

Address____________________________

City_________________________ State/Province_________ Zip/Postal________

Home Phone_________________________  Work Phone_______________________

Email______________________________

Signature____________________________