Changes to ABEM Continuing Certification: Thank you for your input!

In June, all ABEM-certified physicians were invited to participate in a survey about continuing certification, specifically, about potential modifications and an alternative to the ConCert™ Examination (ConCert). The survey was conducted because your opinions are important to the development of a ConCert alternative.

The survey was open for only two weeks in order to collect the information rapidly for pre-planning purposes. There were almost 13,000 responses (36 percent). Over 70 percent of
respondents thought that the assessment of medical knowledge should be part of continuing certification, and over 90 percent preferred the general idea of shorter, more frequent, open-book assessments (see infographic on page 3). ABEM would like to extend its thanks to everyone who took the time to share their ideas; this information will help shape the future of continuing certification.

The survey was part of ABEM’s ongoing program of seeking physician input. In March, ABEM announced the launch of an alternative to the ConCert–MyEMCert—that will begin to be phased in during 2020. The idea behind the alternative is for shorter, more frequent assessments that focus on one or more topics (e.g., trauma). Other aspects being explored are the feasibility of remote access to the assessments and the type of reference(s) that might be allowed.

These ideas were generated after extensive conversations with ABEM-certified physicians.
Leaders of EM organizations and members of state-based membership associations were contacted to solicit their opinions on the topic as well. We hope that you will continue to share your ideas, which will be critical to making the alternative a success.

ABEM will continue to communicate additional details about MyEMCert as they become known. Please check the website (www.abem.org/news) for updates.

72% Believe medical knowledge should be tested to maintain certification

91% Would choose shorter, more frequent tests over ConCert

89% Were either neutral, agreed, or strongly agreed that the tests should be open book

93% Would prefer to take the tests at home or work