

**ABEM Continuing Certification Credit for Participation in Other ABMS Member Boards' Continuing Certification Processes**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

- 1. What credit can I get for participating in another continuing certification program?** ABEM allows physicians who are certified by more than one ABMS\* Member Board to choose the continuing certification process in which they will complete their Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLS) and Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) requirements, as long as that program requires completing both LLS and IMP activities. The selected continuing certification process will become their primary program. Meeting all continuing certification requirements of the selected primary program automatically fulfills the LLS and IMP requirements of each of their ABEM certifications.
- 2. What requirements fall under LLS and IMP?** For ABEM, the LLS requirements include [LLSA](#) and [CME](#) activities. IMP refers to Patient Care Practice Improvement (PI) activities. Each Member Board defines the activities that meet its LLS and IMP continuing certification requirements.
- 3. I have two ABEM certifications. Can continuing certification requirements I meet under one certificate count toward the continuing certification requirements of my other ABEM-issued certification?** Yes. Meeting all requirements of the selected primary continuing certification process automatically fulfills the LLS and IMP requirements of each of your ABEM certifications that have a continuing certification process.
- 4. How do I know if the continuing certification process of another ABMS Member Board is acceptable?** As long as you select an ABMS continuing certification process that requires completion of the LLS and IMP components, and you are participating in that process as defined by the ABMS Member Board that issued your certificate, your continuing certification process is acceptable. ABEM will verify with the other board your participation in the continuing certification process, including your completion of LLS and IMP activities.
- 5. What if I have a certification with a non-ABMS Member Board that has a continuing certification process?** ABEM continuing certification credit can only be given for continuing certification programs administered by one of the 24 ABMS Member Boards that has a continuing certification process program that includes LLS and IMP requirements.
- 6. How does my level of clinical activity affect receiving credit toward ABEM continuing certification requirements?** If you have selected EM or an ABEM subspecialty as your primary continuing certification process and are not clinically active in that specialty or subspecialty, you do not have IMP requirements, regardless of whether you are clinically active within another specialty or subspecialty. If you are clinically active in the specialty or subspecialty you have chosen as your primary continuing certification process, that process must require IMP activities, and you must complete those activities to receive credit for any IMP requirements you might have

within an ABEM continuing certification process.

- 7. Can I complete an LLSA test for a different specialty even if it does not fall under my chosen primary continuing certification process? For example, if I choose EMS as my primary program, can I complete an EM or a Medical Toxicology LLSA test?** Yes. ABEM -certified physicians have access to all ABEM LLSA tests. All ABEM LLSAs tests you pass will count toward all your ABEM LLSA requirements.
- 8. If I choose a continuing certification process program that is not an ABEM continuing certification process, do I need to report to ABEM the LLS and IMP activities I complete?** No. ABEM will verify your participation in the continuing certification process, including the LLS and IMP requirements of that process, with the ABMS Member Board that administers the program.
- 9. Do I still have to complete the Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills (KJS) requirement (recertification examination) for each specialty and subspecialty certification I have?** Yes. All ABEM-certified physicians must take and pass the recertification examination for each certification they hold. Physicians who are subspecialty certified do NOT have to maintain their EM certification. However, ABEM believes that physicians who continue to practice Emergency Medicine in addition to their subspecialty should continue to maintain their EM certification.
- 10. How do I let ABEM know that I am participating in a non-ABEM continuing certification process?** On your ABEM Personal Page, click on "Change Primary" to provide ABEM with information about other non-ABEM ABMS Member Board certificates you hold. You will also be able to select your primary continuing certification process, that is, the process in which you will complete your LLS and IMP requirements.
- 11. If I hold a lifetime certificate with another ABMS Member Board, can this be selected as my primary continuing certification process?** Yes. As long as you are participating in the process associated with that certificate, including completing the LLS and IMP requirements of the process, this can be used as your primary continuing certification process.
- 12. Can I get credit in another ABMS Member Board's continuing certification process for requirements I meet within an ABEM continuing certification process?** Each ABMS Member Board makes its own determination about whether activities or requirements completed in another continuing certification process will count toward its own continuing certification requirements. If the board that issued your certificate recognizes ABEM activities ABEM will provide verification that you are participating in ABEM continuing certification, defined as meeting ABEM continuing certification requirements. ABEM can provide verification that you have completed specific ABEM continuing certification activities if you authorize ABEM to provide that information.

\* The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is the umbrella organization for 24 member medical specialty boards. If you are unsure whether or not a certificate you hold was issued by an ABMS Member Board, please see the [list of Member Boards](#) on the ABMS website.