ABMS Member Board Requirements for Continuing Certification

This table identifies the requirements by Member Board for maintaining certification in a specialty. The process includes assessment and learning activities that help specialists evaluate and enhance their clinical judgment, procedural skills, and service to patients. Evidence of ongoing professional activity, outlined briefly below, is required. The Member Boards consider specialists' performance on all requirements to determine whether they are continuing to meet the standards for certification. Requirements may differ for a subspecialty certificate. Contact the Member Board for the most current information. Footnotes can be found on page 4.

American Board of	Professionalism and Professional Standing	Lifelong Learning [1]	Assessment					Improving Health and Healthcare	
			Innovative Knowledge Assessment			Traditional Secure Exam Option Offered	Accredited CME available for Assessment Program Completion	Type and frequency varies from annual activity to specific time intervals	ABMS Portfolio Program Participation [4]
	All boards require current and unrestricted license*	Lifelong Learning and Continuing Medical Education (CME)** *(type and frequency varies among the boards)*	Assessment Type [2]	Frequency of Engagement	Features [3]				
Allergy and Immunology (ABAI)		CME credits, patient safety, knowledge self-assessment activities.	Point in time	Semi-annually	Customized to practice, mix of core knowledge and article-based questions	Re-entry only	Yes	Practice assessment/quality improvement activity, attestation with audit, professional practice activities, registry participation	No
Anesthesiology (ABA)		CME that counts for CC collaboration with ACGME [9]	Longitudinal assessment	Quarterly	Customized to practice, question-based	Re-entry only	Yes	Practice assessment/quality improvement, activity, attestation with audit	Yes
Colon and Rectal Surgery (ABCRS)	Chief of staff evaluation and documentation of hospital privileges	CME credits	Longitudinal assessment	Quarterly	Mix of question-based and article-based	No	Yes	Participation in a local, regional or national outcomes registry or quality assessment program, attestation with audit, professional practice activities	No
Dermatology (ABD)		CME credits, self-assessment	Longitudinal assessment	Quarterly	Customized to practice, mix of question-based and article-based	No	Yes	Practice assessment/quality improvement activity, attestation with audit, registry participation	Yes
Emergency Medicine (ABEM)		Once certified and transitioned into MyEMCert there is no additional lifelong learning requirement	Point in time	4 modules every 5 years	Clinical-presentation-based	No	Yes	Quality improvement activity, attestation with audit, registry participation	Yes
Family Medicine (ABFM)		CME credits, knowledge self-assessment activities	Longitudinal assessment	Quarterly	Question-based	Yes	Yes	Options include: online performance improvement activity modules; reporting of QI activities from residency practice or clinical service participation in PRIME registry with attestation of involvement	Yes
Internal Medicine (ABIM)		CME that counts for CC collaboration with ACGME [9]	Longitudinal assessment [5]	Quarterly	Question-based	Yes	No	Optional; incentive for participation in approved activities, registry participation	Yes

ABMS Member Board Requirements for Continuing Certification *(continued)*

Footnotes can be found on page 4.

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American Board of	Professionalism and Professional Standing	Lifelong Learning [1]	Assessment					Improving Health and Healthcare	
			Innovative Knowledge Assessment			Traditional Secure Exam Option Offered	Accredited CME available for Assessment Program Completion	Type and frequency varies from annual activity to specific time intervals	ABMS Portfolio Program Participation [4]
	All boards require current and unrestricted license*	Lifelong Learning and Continuing Medical Education (CME)** *(type and frequency varies among the boards)*	Assessment Type [2]	Frequency of Engagement	Features [3]				
Medical Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG)	Diplomates with doctoral degrees but not practicing clinical genetics and genomics must submit a Confidential Attestation of Professional Conduct completed by a peer or supervisor	CME credits, patient safety module	Longitudinal assessment	Semi-annually	Customized to practice, mix of question-based and article-based	Re-entry only	Yes	Improvement in Medical Practice module, professional practice activities, registry participation	Yes
Neurological Surgery (ABNS)	Standing with Licensing and Professional Organizations Questionnaire completed annually with audit	CME credits	Point in time	Annually	Customized to practice, question-based	No	Yes	Improving Health and Health Care Participation Attestation completed annually with audit	No
Nuclear Medicine (ABNM)		CME credits	Longitudinal assessment	Quarterly	Question-based	Yes	Yes	Performance assessments during the cycle, with yearly engagement requirements, attestation with audit	No
Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG)	Hospital privileges* or attestation, professionalism attestation	CME credits, literature review, online self-assessment	Other [6]	2 times a year	Customized to practice, article-based assessment and knowledge gap assessment	No	Lifelong learning only	Participation in Improvement in Medical Practice activity, options include: modules, QI and ABMS Portfolio Program, simulation courses, QI publications/posters and research, and registry participation; defined volunteer experiences, QI programs	Yes
Ophthalmology (ABOP)		CME credits, self-assessment, patient safety	Longitudinal assessment	Quarterly	Customized to practice, mix of question-based and article-based	No	Yes	Practice improvement activities, including registry-based option	Yes
Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS)	Professional peer review, hospital admitting and surgical privileges	Orthopaedic-related CME and ABOS approved self-assessment examination [9]	Longitudinal assessment	Annually	Customized to practice, article-based	Yes	Yes. Only offered for longitudinal assessment participation	Case list review, professional peer review	No
Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHNS)		CME that counts for MOC collaboration with ACCME. Download the CME for MOC guide.	Longitudinal assessment	Quarterly	Customized to practice, mix of question-based and article-based	No	Yes	Practice improvement activities, including registry-based option, attestation with audit	Yes

ABMS Member Board Requirements for Continuing Certification *(continued)*

Footnotes can be found on page 4.

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American Board of	Professionalism and Professional Standing	Lifelong Learning [1]	Assessment					Improving Health and Healthcare	
			Innovative Knowledge Assessment			Traditional Secure Exam Option Offered	Accredited CME available for Assessment Program Completion	Type and frequency varies from annual activity to specific time intervals	ABMS Portfolio Program Participation [4]
	All boards require current and unrestricted license*	Lifelong Learning and Continuing Medical Education (CME)** *(type and frequency varies among the boards)*	Assessment Type [2]	Frequency of Engagement	Features [3]				
Pathology (ABPath)	Professional peer review	CME that counts for CC collaboration with ACGME [9]	Longitudinal assessment	Quarterly	Customized to practice, question-based	No	Yes	Complete two practice assessment/quality improvement activities, peer review, attestation with audit, or professional practice activities every two years	Yes
Pediatrics (ABP)		CME that counts for CC collaboration with ACGME [9]	Customized to practice, article-based assessment and knowledge gap assessment	Quarterly	Customized to practice, mix of question-based and article-based	Yes	No	Completion of ABP-approved IHHC activities including participation in quality improvement projects through a health system, practice, or training program; involvement in an approved Portfolio Sponsor project; community health improvement work; medical education improvement initiatives; and leadership of projects that improve child health and health care. Those whose primary role is research can also submit their peer reviewed publications for IHHC credit	Yes
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR)		CME credits, self-assessment	Longitudinal assessment	Quarterly	Customized to practice, question-based	Yes	Yes	Practice assessment/quality improvement, registry participation	Yes
Plastic Surgery (ABPS)	Hospital privileges, peer review, review of advertising material, outpatient facility accreditation	CME credits, patient safety	Longitudinal assessment	Annually	Customized to practice, question-based	No	Yes	Practice assessment module, registry participation, quality improvement projects, and quality improvement publications	No
Preventive Medicine (ABPM)		CME credits	Longitudinal assessment	Annually	Question-based	Yes	No	Practice assessment/quality improvement activity	No
Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)		CME credits, self-assessment, patient safety	Article-/ question-based	Every 3 years	Customized to practice, article-based	Yes	No	Practice assessment/quality improvement activity, attestation with audit, registry participation, quality improvement publications	Yes

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ABMS Member Board Requirements for Continuing Certification *(continued)*

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American Board of	Professionalism and Professional Standing	Lifelong Learning (1)	Assessment					Improving Health and Healthcare	
			Innovative Knowledge Assessment			Traditional Secure Exam Option Offered	Accredited CME available for Assessment Program Completion		
	All boards require current and unrestricted license*	Lifelong Learning and Continuing Medical Education (CME)** *(type and frequency varies among the boards)*	Assessment Type (2)	Frequency of Engagement	Features (3)			Type and frequency varies from annual activity to specific time intervals	ABMS Portfolio Program Participation (4)
Radiology (ABR)		CME credits	Longitudinal assessment	Annually	Customized to practice, question-based	Yes	No	Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) project or participatory activity, attestation with audit, professional practice activities, registry participation	Yes
Surgery (ABS)	Hospital/surgical center privileges, ethics and professionalism attestation	CME that counts for CC collaboration with ACGME (9)	Point in time (7)	Every 2 years	Customized to practice, question-based	Re-entry only	No	Participation in a registry, participation in a hospital or individual quality improvement program, attestation with audit, registry participation	Yes
Thoracic Surgery (ABTS)	Hospital privileges	CME that counts for CC collaboration with ACGME (9)	Other (8)	Every 5 years	Customized to practice, question-based	No	No	Practice assessment/quality improvement activity, peer evaluations, attestation with audit, registry participation	Yes
Urology (ABU)	Peer review; case for review; professionalism and ethics modules	CME credits, online practice assessment, patient safety	Longitudinal assessment	Annually	Customized to practice, question-based and article-based	Yes	Yes	Case log review, attestation with audit, peer review, professional responsibility action review, and surgical complication narrative reviews, registry participation	Yes

* Current and unrestricted medical license must be maintained in the jurisdiction(s) where a specialist chooses to practice. Other requirements listed by board.

** Continuing Medical Education, or CME, consists of educational activities to assess, develop, and increase specialists' knowledge, judgment, skills, and professional performance. CME activities are certified and credit is awarded from one or more of the following credit systems: AMA PRA Category 1; AAFP Prescribed Credit, ACOG Cognates: AOA Category 1A.

(1) Requirements could include practice-relevant CME such as literature reviews, conference participation, online assessment, and/or particular ABMS Member Board- or society-developed self-assessment modules. Some Member Boards will waive self-assessment requirements for participation in an innovative knowledge assessment. Contact the Member Board for specific requirements.

(2) Longitudinal Assessment involves administering shorter, more continuous assessments of specific content repeatedly over a period of time to reinforce concepts and information. Gaps in knowledge can be addressed by reviewing suggested educational materials or continuing medical education activities such as those available through the ABMS Continuing Certification Directory, practice performance projects such as those available through the ABMS Portfolio Program or other professional development activities. Point in time assessments are offered at less frequent intervals, typically during test administration windows of a few weeks on an annual or biennial basis.

(3) Question-based assessment involves the use of multiple-choice questions. Article-based assessment involves reviewing articles with which physicians should be familiar and demonstrating mastery of the material by responding to questions related to the articles. Clinical-presentation-based assessment involves questions related to the assessment, treatment, and follow up for patients presenting with common clinical problems in the specialty. Customized to Practice involves Member Boards allowing physicians the ability to select among topic areas based on practice setting and/or patient mix.

(4) The ABMS Portfolio Program offers an option for organizations to support physician involvement in quality, performance, and process improvement (QI/PI) initiatives at their institution and award physicians Improvement in Medical Practice credit for continuing certification.

(5) Options vary by certificate: yearly question-based format for some subspecialties.

(6) Assessment integrated with Lifelong Learning.

(7) Formative feedback provided; offer second chance to answer items.

(8) Customized to practice; formative feedback provided; offer second chance to answer items.

(9) Download the CME for CC guide