



Code of Professionalism

BACKGROUND

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) believes that patients are entitled to quality emergency care delivered in a professional manner. Therefore, ABEM has adopted the following Code of Professionalism.

POLICY

ABEM certification requirements for professionalism includes an ethical requirement to:

- Treat patients in a safe and fair manner.
- Mitigate both implicit or explicit biases based on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, or religion when providing patient care.
- Demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for patients, families, and other members of the health care team in all types of interactions.
- Respect patient privacy and autonomy.
- Be accountable to patients and peers.
- Refrain from conduct that the Board determines, in its sole judgment, to be sufficiently egregious that it is inconsistent with ethical behavior by a physician.

The ABEM Code of Professionalism requires ABEM board eligible– and –certified physicians to adhere to this construct.

ABEM-certified physicians and candidates for certification are required to report:

- Any potential breach of this Code as well as any alteration in the status of a state or federal medical or drug license or encumbrance on a license.
- Surrendering any state medical license to avoid action by a state medical licensing board.
- A felony conviction or federal indictment.
- Any restriction on a DEA license.
- Any exclusion from participating in Medicaid or Medicare.
- Any sanction or disciplinary action by a medical board.
- Any involuntary revocation of staff privileges.

ABEM board eligible– and –certified physicians who do not report will be subject to review under ABEM’s disciplinary action process.

ABEM board eligible– and –certified physicians may not:

- Have any state medical license with an encumbrance. Each and every license held by the physician must be unencumbered irrespective of the state in which the physician practices.
- Provide false, misleading, or untruthful information on an application for certification or any other ABEM-requested information.
- Inaccurately represent one’s certification status.
- Use ABEM eligibility or certification to advertise board certification credentials for clinical practice areas that are outside the scope of practice for Emergency Medicine as defined by *The Model of the Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine*.

- Share the content of any ABEM written or Oral Examination. Verbal or written reproduction of test material is strictly prohibited. The material is copywritten and sharing the information may be a federal offense.
- Cheat on any ABEM examination.
- Obstruct an ABEM investigation into conduct.

ABEM board eligible– and -certified physicians who engage in these actions will be subject to review under ABEM’s disciplinary action process.

Conduct that is prohibited by this Code shall be reviewed by the ABEM Board of Directors and may result in decertification or loss of eligibility for certification.

EXCEPTION

ABEM maintains an appeal process for physicians who are found to not fulfill the requirements described in the Code of Professionalism.

Review date: April 2021