

Externally Developed Activities for Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) Requirements FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

- 1. How will ABEM inform the organization if the activity is approved for ABEM-certified physicians to receive IMP credit?** ABEM will send a letter to the organization, indicating its decision as to whether the activity can count for ABEM Improvement in Medical Practice credit. The dates during which approval is effective will be included.
- 2. Does ABEM require that the organization developing the activity be the same organization that administers it?** No. In that case, the names of both organizations should be submitted on the application and the role of each should be clearly stated.
- 3. Must the organization that develops the activity be an ACCME-accredited CME provider?** No. However, the organization that provides CME credit related to the activity must be an ACCME-accredited CME provider.
- 4. Does ABEM have guidelines for how the organization may describe the activity once approved?** Yes. The external organization may state the following: "Physicians certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine may satisfy one current Improvement in Medical Practice requirement by completing this activity."
- 5. May the organization advertise the activity?** Yes. The organization may not use the ABEM logo and must use the following language when referring to the activity: "Physicians certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine may satisfy one current Improvement in Medical Practice requirement by completing this activity."
- 6. How will ABEM inform its certified physicians that the activity is available to fulfill ABEM IMP requirements?** Information will appear on the ABEM website and will be integrated into presentations given to EM organizations.
- 7. Can ABEM-certified physicians who completed the activity before ABEM approved it receive IMP credit for completing the activity?** Yes, if they completed the activity during a time when they had a current ABEM IMP requirement and if the activity they completed is the same version that was approved by ABEM.
- 8. Can the organization offer the activity to individuals who are not certified by ABEM?** Yes, provided that it uses the following language when referring to the activity: "Physicians certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine may satisfy one current Improvement in Medical Practice requirement by completing this activity." This language makes it clear that only ABEM-certified physicians have a continuing certification requirement for which the activity has been approved by ABEM.
- 9. Will the organization be required to provide each participant with a certificate upon completing the activity?** No. ABEM will not require participants

to submit certificates to verify completion of the activity, but will require the organization providing the activity to verify completion and submit a list of ABEM physicians who completed the activity to ABEM. If CME credit is offered in conjunction with the activity, a CME certificate of completion should be provided to the participant.

- 10. For how long will an activity maintain its approved status with ABEM?**
Activities retain their approved status for three years after approval is granted, unless the criteria under which the activity was approved appear to have been breached. In that case, ABEM will re-review the activity. At the end of three years of approval, organizations may submit a request to renew approval.
- 11. What happens if ABEM changes its criteria after approving an activity, and the activity does not fully meet the new criteria?** ABEM will not withdraw approval during a three-year approval term if an organization continues to meet the criteria under which the activity was approved. At the end of the three-year approval term, approval can only be renewed under the criteria in place at that time.
- 12. Can ABEM give approval before the activity is fully developed, based on development plans?** Yes, provided that a means exists for ABEM to review the activity, including its mode of delivery.
- 13. If an application is not approved, what remedy is available to the developing organization?** If an application is not approved, ABEM will identify the criteria that did not appear to be met. Once the organization believes the activity meets the criteria, it may submit a new application.

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