



## **Policy on ABEM-appointed Subspecialty and Focused Practice Designation Representatives' Participation in Continuing Certification**

### **BACKGROUND**

Internal precautions are taken to ensure a distance between ABEM-appointed subspecialty and Focused Practice designation (FPD) representatives and continuing certification examinations; the public, however, may not understand these precautions. For that reason, the Board of Directors (BOD) approved the following policy with regard to ABEM-appointed subspecialty and FPD representatives' participation in continuing certification. This policy allows for a certificate extension so that representatives have ample opportunity to take a Cognitive Expertise or recertification examination after completing their tenure on a subboard or examination committee.

### **POLICY**

The following constitutes ABEM's policy on subspecialty and FPD representatives' participation in subspecialty or FPD continuing certification:

All ABEM-appointed subspecialty and FPD representatives and ABEM-certified physicians appointed to subspecialty examination committees, subspecialty subboards by other sponsor boards, must participate in the subspecialty's or FPD's Professionalism and Professional Standing, Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLS), and Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) continuing certification requirements at the same level as all ABEM subspecialty-certified and FPD-recognized physicians in that subspecialty or FPD. They may not participate in the Assessment of Knowledge, Judgement, and Skills (Cognitive Expertise Examination) during their tenure on the subboard or examination committee and for a period of two years after their appointment ends.

Regardless of when a subspecialty or FPD representative's certificate expires, the Board will extend the representative's certificate to accommodate the following:

- A hiatus of two years (after completing the appointment) during which the individual may not sit for an examination in that subspecialty or FPD area
- After this two-year period, the individual will have two opportunities to renew the subspecialty certificate or FPD recognition by passing one of the next two available subspecialty or FPD examinations
- That the original subspecialty certificate or FPD recognition will expire if the representative is not certified after the second available examination

### **PROCEDURES**

ABEM subspecialty and FPD representatives may serve multiple terms, depending on the subboard or examination committee. Certification expiration dates are reviewed to determine the extension date of certification when a representative is appointed, re-appointed, or receives a term extension. Certificate extensions are based on each individual term; therefore, some individuals could receive multiple extended certificates.

### **EXCEPTION**

None

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