



# TRANSFORMING CERTIFICATION

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Starting in 2021, ABEM will move to a 5-year certification period for physicians when they next recertify. By moving to a 5-year certification period, physicians will now be able to use MyEMCert to recertify starting in 2021. As physicians move to a 5-year certification period, ABEM will also move to an annual fee structure.

Enclosed are talking points on these important continuing certification updates.

Learn more at [www.abem.org](http://www.abem.org).

# MyEMCert

- ABEM is changing its continuing certification process to be even more relevant, clear, and flexible.
- ABEM developed MyEMCert in response to physicians' preference to move away from the high-stakes, high-stress exam.
- ABEM solicited feedback from emergency physicians through interviews, surveys, focus groups, and from every major emergency medicine organization
- A continuing certification process was developed that is more flexible.
  - Can participate in MyEMCert at a time convenient for you
  - Choose your own location—no testing center is needed
  - Open book but you must take alone without collaboration
  - Honor code



## 5-year Cycle

- ABEM is moving to a 5-year certification period starting in 2021. All certificates issued in 2021 and after will be for five years. No current certificate will be changed or shortened.
  - All current certification expiration dates remain same
  - No physician's current certification is shortened
- The 5-year certification cycle encourages ongoing engagement to keep up with key advances in the specialty.
- There is no difference between renewing certification by taking ConCert versus completing MyEMCert modules (both 5 years).
- Taking ConCert early meets your current examination requirement prior to last year of certification.
- ConCert does not mean 10 years no matter when you complete it. Certification end date is determined by issue date, not by when requirements are met (e.g., when you took ConCert).
  - It's not about when you take the ConCert . . . it's when your board certification expires
- ABEM will make no exceptions for groups of physicians with respect to certification length. Certification must remain a consistent process to be fair to all ABEM-certified physicians during this transition. If an exception is granted for one cohort, it inadvertently disadvantages another cohort. Therefore, all certificates that are renewed in 2021 and later will be issued a 5-year certificate, regardless of when all continuing certification requirements are met.

## Annual Fee

- ABEM will move to an annual fee beginning in 2021. The annual fee will begin for physicians who renew certification or achieve initial certification in 2021 and after.
- Other physicians will move to an annual fee after they renew their current certification.
- Physicians who paid more for ConCert and LLSAs will be reimbursed the difference in fees.
  - Refunds apply only to fees paid for successful completion of the ConCert Exam and LLSA tests; they will not apply to fees paid for retaking exams or tests or for any late fees
  - New annual fee structure is about the same as current charges (annualized)

## Why Now?

- ABEM made these changes (MyEMCert + cycle length + annual fee) now to coordinate them into one simplified process.
  - Reduces confusion
  - Signals from ABMS that change is likely



## Comparison Between 10-Year and New 5-Year Certification Cycles

	10-Year Certification 	5-Year Certification
<b>Annual Costs</b>	\$280/annualized	\$280/year
<b>LLSA Fee</b>	\$105	Free
<b>ConCert Fee*</b>	\$1,950	\$0
<b>Total Fees</b>	\$2,790	\$1,400
<b>Requirements</b>	Four activities every five years	Four activities every five years
<b>Licensure and Improvement in Medical Practice</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Consistent Year-to-Year Physician Fees</b>	No	Yes
<b>Periodic High-Stakes Examination (ConCert)</b>	Yes	No
<b>Travel to a Testing Site</b>	Yes	No

NOTE: 5-year certification does not start until current certification expires.

\* ConCert will be available in 2021 and 2022 for \$1,400 for those who delay enrolling in MyEMCert.

