



## American Board of Emergency Medicine

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(68374)

Dear Dr. Marin-Garcia:

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) defines the standards for the specialty of Emergency Medicine. Certification by ABEM supersedes the need for any additional certifications sometimes required for medical staff privileges or disease-specific care center designations, such as that needed for trauma or stroke centers. Herein, ABEM and supporting Emergency Medicine organizations oppose any requirement of additional short courses or topic-specific continuing education for ABEM and AOBEM-certified emergency physicians, who are in good standing with their medical staff, and who are participating in Maintenance of Certification, Osteopathic Continuous Certification, or any future program to ensure continued Board Certification.

Emergency Medicine organizations provide high quality opportunities for continuous professional development in advanced resuscitation, trauma care, stroke care, cardiovascular care, procedural sedation, pediatric care, and airway management.

The knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for the care of the acutely ill and injured are sufficiently described in *The Model of the Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine* (EM Model) and are ensured by obtaining and maintaining ABEM certification. The EM Model is the foundational document for designing an Emergency Medicine residency curriculum, and is also the document on which ABEM bases the content of its initial certification and continuous certification (ConCert™) examinations. Residency training in the Model and subsequent oral and written assessments are far more rigorous than any of the topic-specific continuing education courses (i.e., ACLS, PALS, ATLS, etc.).

An ABEM-certified physician has successfully passed a secure, comprehensive written examination that includes questions about airway management, pharmacotherapy, cardiovascular care, and trauma care with an emphasis on critical and emergent conditions. If the physician successfully passes the written examination, she or he must then take an oral examination. The ABEM Oral Certification Examination is a highly reliable test that requires the physician to demonstrate the diagnostic evaluation and treatment of complex clinical conditions.

The ABEM Maintenance of Certification Program is a rigorous program of continuous professional development that contains content critical to the practice of Emergency Medicine. The ConCert™ Examination is a high-stakes, psychometrically valid, secure, and comprehensive examination weighted toward high acuity conditions. The ABEM Maintenance of Certification program includes content pertaining to procedural sedation, cardiovascular care, airway management, trauma care, stroke management, and pediatric acute care. For the Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) test requirement, ABEM-certified emergency physicians are required to read 10-15 articles for each test yearly. The content and rigor of the ABEM LLSA requirements exceed the knowledge and skills that could be gained from any of the aforementioned short courses.

ABEM-certified physicians who are active in the ABEM Maintenance of Certification program should not be required to obtain additional certification or content-specific educational requirements. For physicians who are not board certified in Emergency Medicine, completion of periodic, short

courses in focused content areas of Emergency Medicine may be valuable. Nonetheless, additional short courses or certifications are unnecessary for ABEM and AOBEM-certified emergency physicians.

If you have questions regarding this or any other ABEM policy, please feel free to contact the ABEM office at 517.332.4800.

Sincerely,

David A. Farcy, M.D.  
President, American Academy of Emergency Medicine

Haig Aintablian, M.D.  
President, American Academy of Emergency Medicine-Resident Student Association

Jill M. Baren M.D.  
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