



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Continuing Certification FAQs

Transcript:

Hello, this is the second of two videos devoted to some FAQs about certification. This video is going to focus on questions related to continuing certification. I should point out that in previous videos, I've spoken about the reasons why continuing certification is so important and a major part of our programs here at the ABPN.

This video is going to focus more on the nuts and bolts because commonly asked questions include 'What are my requirements and when are they due by for continuing certification?'

So, our continuing certification activity requirements include several things. We have to maintain throughout a full and unrestricted medical license. We have annual fees to pay to help cover the administrative costs of administering our continuing certification program. We all have to do a patient safety activity at least one time and attest to that in our continuing certification portal. But when we've done it once, that's all that we require. You don't have to do that again, at least not from the ABPN's perspective.

We also have to do, in three-year blocks, requirements that include an improvement in medical practice activity, also known as performance in practice or a PIP. And every three-year block, we also have to have a total of 90 CME credits, of which at least 24 have to be self-assessment CME credits.

All of these activities, that is the self-assessment CME, the category one CME in general, and the PIP, the performance in practice or improvement in medical practice module, all need to be done during each three-year block. Our specific time block, that is, when are they actually due, all that's visible in our Physician Portal.

So, if we log into our Physician Portal, it shows very clearly what we've already done and what we still need to do and when we need to do it by in terms of that three-year block. So, this is all in the same place where we complete the attestation saying that we've done the requirements. Now, in addition to those activities, we also have to do some kind of assessment.

Most people are opting to do the Article-Based Continuing Certification pathway, and there's a part of our website that's devoted to that. We have a choice of articles, and we have to do a certain number of articles per three-year block per certification, including our primary certification and our specialty, and for those who are subspecialists, subspecialty articles as well.

But people also have the choice of doing a recertification exam every 10 years instead of the article-based pathway. We think the article-based pathway is a much better way to learn and grow in our careers, but the 10-year recertification examination is also available as an option. Please note that the Article Based Pathway, or ABCC, Article Based Continuing Certification Pathway, is in lieu of the 10-year examination.

It's not a substitute for the other continuing certification requirements, which answers the question that we sometimes get as to, you know, 'I've done the articles, do I still need to do self-assessment CME and the PIP and so on?' And the answer is 'yes,' we need to do all of those things. However, diplomates who successfully pass the required number of articles for each three-year block in the ABCC pathway will get automatically 16 of those self-assessment CME credits waived per block, meaning that they only have to do eight rather than 24 self-assessment CME credits in that block.

And that will appear automatically in our portal when we've completed that three-year block of articles for those who are in the ABCC. This feature will be implemented and activated by the end of calendar year '24. That is to say the end of the current block that goes 2022 to 2024.

Now we also get questions that ask, 'What happens if I fall behind on any of my continuing certification requirements or my articles?' And what I would say to that is please contact us directly. You can email us at questions@abpn.org, or you can call our phone number, all provided on our website. People will respond.

We have a dedicated team of expert staff who can look at your actual individual situation and give you very specific guidance on how you can catch up on your requirements or if you've gotten so far behind in your requirements that you lose certification, they can let you know what the pathway is to regain certification. Again, the individual circumstances will vary, so the best way to answer this question is to talk to somebody directly about your own particular situation.

So that's about it for these FAQs for this video. Thanks very much for your attention.