REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT
OF PRACTICE PERFORMANCE

Practice Improvement Skill Areas

12/30/09

	Patient Care Practice Improvement (PI)	Communication/Professionalism (CP)
What are my ABEM APP requirements?	Your current APP requirements as of January 1, 2010, are explained in the letter accompanying this fact sheet, and are also available by signing into your ABEM personal page. When you renew your current certification you will have three APP requirements within the 10-year period of your new certificate. You will have to begin, complete, and attest to completion of two PI activities: one in years one-four and one in years five-eight; and one CP activity in years one-eight.	
What are the basic steps I need to complete to fulfill my requirements?	1. Identify and complete a PI activity. 2. Identify and confirm who will verify your participation in the PI activity. 3. Sign into EMCC Online and report completion of your PI activity and provide information on your verifier.	1. Identify and participate in a CP activity, i.e., a communication survey. 2. Identify and confirm who will verify your participation in the CP activity. 3. Sign into EMCC Online and report your participation in the CP activity.

What steps must my activities include?	The PI activity must include the following four steps:
	
	1. Collect and review patient clinical care data from ten patients. The data must be related to a single presentation, disease, or clinical care process that is part of *The Model of the Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine* (EM Model). Group data are acceptable if the individual diplomate's data are included.
	2. Compare the data to evidence-based guidelines. If such guidelines are not available, diplomates may use explicit expert consensus or comparable peer data.
	3. Develop and implement a practice improvement plan, which may be an individual or group effort. The practice improvement plan could include a change in a process, adding clinical reminders, personal education, etc.
	4. Collect and review patient care data from ten additional patients with the same presentation, disease, or clinical process as the first patient data review. Use this new data to evaluate whether clinical performance has positively changed or if acceptable performance is maintained.
		Your CP activity must contain the following two steps:
		
		1. Collect appropriate feedback from at least 10 of your patients.
		2. Measure one physician behavior from each of the following three categories:
		   • Communications/listening
		   • Providing information
		   • Showing concern for the patient

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What type of patient data may I use?	Patient data may include any one of the following:
	
	1. Clinical care processes
	2. Feedback from patients that relates to the clinical care administered
	3. Outcomes of clinical care
	4. Access to care, e.g., time for through-put or patient left the department without being seen
		You may use any communication/professionalism data that measures your ability to do all of the following:
		
		1. Communications/listening, for example,
		  • Communicate clearly with patients and other medical staff by listening carefully and couching language at the appropriate level for the listener
		2. Providing information, for example,
		  • Explain the clinical impression and anticipated management course to the patient and the patient's family
		  • Provide information about tests and procedures
		  • Give the patient options
		3. Showing concern for the patient, for example,
		  • Show respect to the patient and other medical staff
		  • Make the patient feel comfortable by asking if they have any questions or concerns and act to address their concerns
		  • Ask the patient about adequate pain relief

Must I use my own patients' data?	Data must be from your own patients. A group dataset that contains data from your patients is acceptable. Performance feedback does not have to be specific to your own patients.	
Who may verify my APP activities, and will ABEM seek independent verification of the APP activity I report?	Select a person from the following list who can verify that you participated in a PI or CP program that meets ABEM requirements: • Hospital board chair or other member of the board • Department chair • Chief of staff • Medical director • Practice administrator in non-hospital settings 10% of diplomates submitting complete APP activity information will be randomly selected for independent verification.	
If I am not treating patients, how do I complete my APP requirements?	There is no APP requirement for clinically inactive diplomates.	