

Message from the Chair

Liza Lindenberg, MD – Chair, American Board of Nuclear Medicine

Dear ABNM Diplomates:

“Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change.” – Stephen Hawking

Anticipating change in many facets of our lives, opportunities and challenges inevitably arise. This year the transition to the new 5-year certification program begins for all diplomates with expiring certificates. This aligns with other American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) boards to uphold the best standards for competent, practicing physicians. Advances in our field are rapid, and with so many innovative radiopharmaceuticals approved in the last few years and more on the horizon, there is a lot for nuclear medicine clinicians to know. Recertifying every 5 years instead of 10 years is more timely to ensure ongoing competence. What does this mean for you?

All diplomates participating in Continuing Certification (CC) are eligible for a new certificate valid for 5 years after the expiration date of their current certificate. This requires maintaining all CC requirements, including passing an assessment (CertLink® or CC exam). If you are enrolled in CertLink's longitudinal assessment, you must achieve qualifying benchmarks or alternatively must successfully pass the CC exam, one to two years prior to certificate expiration. Once you are verified to have completed all CC requirements including passing the exam, you will be issued a new certificate that expires 5 years from your current certification end date. Diplomates with time-limited certificates expiring in 2031 or beyond, will be automatically enrolled in CertLink after successfully passing the CC exam if not already participating in CertLink.

CC went into effect last January 2024, and most of us have the additional requirements covered as part of our usual medical practice. The three major components diplomates must update each calendar year are:

- Contact Info and Professional Standing
- Professional Development Activities
- Improving Health and Health Care

as well as paying your annual fees, all of which can be done through the ABNM online dashboard. See the [CC Committee Chair Message](#) in this edition of Tracers for additional details regarding the above CC requirements.

Of course, any change brings hurdles to overcome, needing patience and perseverance by all. As many are aware, the ABNM website is newly operational and still undergoing refinement. Staff are diligently working on these issues and appreciate diplomates' understanding.

What are the benefits of being certified? Active certification is a demonstrable measure of a diplomate's commitment to staying abreast of specialty updates and providing optimal patient care. Additionally, all diplomate's certification history and current status is publicly available on CertificationMatters.org, a free online tool offered by ABMS, designed for patients and their families. Seeing a current ABNM certification through this website increases patient confidence in their physician's qualifications. ABMS is the largest physician-led certification organization in the US and influential in setting professional standards for medical specialties. They also provide primary source verification for credentialers and health care organizations, another advantage of ABNM certification for practical employment considerations.

Furthermore, the ABNM certification is now the only ABMS board certification recognized for comprehensive theranostics by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), meeting the training and experience requirements in the Code of Federal Regulation, Title 10, part 35 (10 CFR 35) governing Medical Use of Byproduct Material. This streamlines success in obtaining Authorized User status from the agency. In comparison, the Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology is not an ABMS member board and is recognized only for training in imaging and localization studies, and the US NRC has discontinued its recognition of the American Board of Radiology's (ABR) certification processes for all certifications granted after December 31, 2023. Certificates from the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology (AOBR) for Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Oncology are still recognized.

Your ABNM certificate is a testament to your dedication to quality medical care and professionalism as a nuclear medicine physician. Thank you for trusting in the value of ABNM certification.

Liza Lindenberg
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Chair