

# Associate Executive Director's Message

## CertLink® Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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Dear ABNM Diplomates,

As another year of our [CertLink®](#) program begins, I would like to review its purpose as well as address some recurring questions the ABNM has received.

CertLink is a longitudinal assessment program introduced in 2018 that satisfies a portion of the ABNM's Continuing Certification (CC) program. As a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the ABNM requires diplomates with time-limited certificates to participate in and pass the CertLink assessment, or to take and pass the Continuing Certification exam. After a pilot period, the ABMS Board of Directors approved ABNM CertLink February 2021.

Over the years, the format of CertLink has seen little change. Participating diplomates answer up to 13 questions per quarter, covering a range of current topics in nuclear medicine. These questions can be answered at any time during that quarter; currently 5 minutes are allotted per question. Any questions missed or not answered may be seen by the diplomate again in a future quarter.

While CertLink does provide an assessment of each diplomate's performance, it is also designed to promote learning of relevant concepts in nuclear medicine. The question, images, and response choices are all shown on the review page after diplomate response. Participants not only receive immediate feedback about whether their answer was correct, but also the critique and references provide additional information about the topic. For all questions written after January 2024, these references are all hyperlinked to PubMed.

As part of participation, diplomates are invited to provide feedback on any question. Here are some answers to common questions about CertLink feedback:

- 1. Is the feedback I submitted reviewed?** Feedback on each question is aggregated and reviewed by the ABNM associate executive director and/or additional board members.
- 2. If I submitted feedback about a question, why am I seeing that question again?** If a diplomate's response was scored as incorrect initially, that diplomate may receive that question again at a future administration, regardless of prior feedback submitted.
- 3. How often do questions get removed from the pool?** The ABNM reviews feedback provided by diplomates on an ongoing basis. In addition, we review the psychometric performance of each question and consider deletion from scoring of items that do not support the overall validity of the CertLink assessment. Of note, however, the ABMS CertLink platform only allows for removal of questions once per year; up until that time, all questions remain in circulation.
- 4. Why don't I receive an individual response to my feedback?** The CertLink platform is designed for anonymous feedback submission; your feedback is decoupled from your account and thus cannot be responded to individually.
- 5. Do discarded questions impact my score?** After the pool is reviewed and any questions are removed, the score displayed in the CertLink platform may change slightly, as fewer questions are now being scored.

For other questions about CertLink, including logistics and leave policies, please refer to our CertLink FAQs at [CertLink FAQs | ABNM \(https://www.abnm.org/certlink/certlink-faqs\)](https://www.abnm.org/certlink/certlink-faqs).



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