

ABIM Board of Directors COVID-19-related Decision

March 16, 2020

A message from Richard G. Battaglia, MD

Chief Medical Officer, American Board of Internal Medicine

I wanted to make you aware of this weekend's decision by our Board of Directors. I hope you are faring well with all that is going on.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is putting extraordinary stress on all medical staff and has introduced new demands as well as considerable uncertainty in the personal and professional lives of board certified physicians.

The safety and continuing ability of our diplomates—your members—to serve patients and the community are ABIM's top priority at this time. As I am sure you are doing within your own organizations, we are meeting daily to assess the rapidly evolving situation. After much consideration and discussion with our Board of Directors, we are taking the following steps to ensure sitting for an ABIM exam doesn't unnecessarily put our diplomates' or their coworkers' health at risk, or pull them away from where they are needed most:

- ABIM has decided to suspend all spring assessments. **Please know that no physician will have their certification status negatively impacted because of this decision.** Physicians scheduled to take a spring assessment will be contacted via email alerting them of this change, and we will provide them with individualized guidance on their options moving forward.
- We are working with Pearson VUE, ABIM's exam delivery provider, to ensure that there will be sufficient capacity for administrations later this year to accommodate all physicians who choose to take an assessment at that time. Diplomates can reschedule their exams by signing in to the [ABIM Physician Portal](#). If they need any assistance, they can contact us at 1-800-441-ABIM or request@abim.org and our Customer Relationship Advocates can help.
- Both ABIM and the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) [have notified Program Directors and Designated Institutional Officials \(DIOs\)](#) that we do not anticipate interruptions of training related to COVID-19 adversely affecting Board Eligibility for the vast majority of otherwise competent residents and fellows. ABIM's recently clarified [Leave of Absence and Deficits in Required Training Time policies](#) are in full effect and applicable to absences that might occur due to COVID-19.
- We've created a [dedicated webpage for updates on COVID-19](#). You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) for real-time alerts. We will continue to monitor this situation and send follow-up emails to affected physicians as needed.

Sincerely,
Rick

Richard G. Battaglia, MD

Chief Medical Officer, American Board of Internal Medicine