



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

The Value of Continuing Certification Through the ABPN

Transcript:

Hello, I'm Jeff Lyness. Thank you for watching. In this video, I'd like to tell you a little bit about our continuing certification program here at the ABPN. Of course, I can't cover all of the important details for continuing certification, at least not unless you want this video to go on a lot longer than it will.

But I can hit some of the highlights and kind of give you a sense of where the continuing certification program is coming from, and then more specifics will be available to you easily on our website. Let me begin by posing the question, why continuing certification? It turns out that there's actually quite a bit of evidence that our skills as physicians in many ways will decline over the time we have in practice outside of formal training; unless, unless we pay careful attention to lifelong learning.

And this evidence that lifelong learning in order to be effective cannot consist only of passively attending educational activities. Continuing medical education is really important, but simply attending CME sessions is not sufficient. We need to have our learning guided by outside independent assessments, including assessments that feed back to us to help guide our continued learning.

So, our continuing certification program, like those of the other member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties, does all of that. I also want to point out that only the ABPN can continue certification for our diplomates who have been previously and initially certified by the ABPN.

Also, only the ABPN'S program is developed and created and monitored by our peers – colleagues in psychiatry and neurology and the various subspecialties. It's developed by us for our own fields, and of course, our program does include independent assessments, including assessments, that feed back information to you, to our diplomates.

Again, more information is provided on our website, and individualized information for our diplomates is provided to each person through our Physician Portal, also provided through the website. I do want to highlight that in recent years we have developed what has now become what we refer to as the ABCC, the Article-based Continuing Certification Pathway.

This came out of a pilot program that we started in 2019. The pilot was so well received, so warmly received by the people who took part in it that we've decided to make it a regular option. And so, for people who are in our continuing certification program and opt for the ABCC Pathway, instead of taking a multiple-choice exam once every 10 years, which used to be the model and is still available to people, but those in the ABCC Pathway can instead regularly select articles from choices of articles that we provide.

And answer multiple choice questions about those articles in an ongoing way. And diplomates who keep up with this over the years will not have to take the 10-year examination. It's in lieu of that examination.

What our colleagues and diplomates tell us, what I found myself as a participant in the pilot program and now in the ABCC Pathway, is that this has been a great way to keep up with some key literature, including helping me pay

attention to aspects of the literature, to clinical topics that I might have been less likely on my own to read about, less likely on my own to think about in depth, because like most of us, I tend to gravitate toward the things I already know the most about because I'm the most passionate about those areas. And yet if I want to maintain my skills as a psychiatrist, and across my subspecialty with geriatric psychiatry, it's important I kind of broaden things, and the ABCC Pathway is helping me do that.

So that's a quick overview of our certification program and the ABCC and thank you very much for your attention.