



## APRIL 2020 FAMILY MEDICINE CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION (ONE-DAY EXAM) CANCELLATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**1. Do I need to withdraw my April application to reschedule for the summer exam window?**

No. If you intend to reschedule to a summer date, please do not withdraw from your April online application. We will provide further instructions as soon as summer rescheduling is available.

**2. Will my reschedule fees/late withdraw fees/etc. be waived or refunded?**

Yes. If you paid a reschedule fee directly to Prometric please let us know by contacting the Support Center ([help@theabfm.org](mailto:help@theabfm.org) or 877-223-7437). ABFM will reach out to Prometric on your behalf and initiate a refund request. If you withdraw your application less than 30 days from your scheduled appointment, the late cancellation fees that would normally apply will be waived. Please note that refunds requested may take additional time to process as ABFM staff is working remotely during the COVID-19 crisis.

**3. If I do not wish to reschedule my exam and seek a refund, are there any penalties? Can my late fee be refunded?**

If you'd like to withdraw from the April examination and request a refund, there would be no penalty. The full amount paid, including late fees, will be refunded as well. Please note that refunds requested may take additional time to process as ABFM staff is working remotely during the COVID-19 crisis. Refunds may be requested by contacting the Support Center ([help@theabfm.org](mailto:help@theabfm.org) or 877-223-7437).

**4. Prometric has closed their sites through April 16, 2020. Can I still test April 18–21?**

No. All April examinations have been cancelled.

**5. Can I still test if my international site has not closed?**

No. All April examinations have been cancelled.

**6. My board eligibility period expires soon. Will I still be able to attempt the exam this year?**

Yes. If your board eligibility period was due to end after the April examination, but before the new summer examination window, ABFM would extend your board eligibility window enough to ensure you could attempt the exam in the summer window.

**7. I start a fellowship in 2020 and must be Board Certified prior to starting. My April exam was cancelled however, what do I do?**

ABFM cannot grant initial board certification until a successful examination attempt takes place and all other requirements are met. However, we would be happy to provide a letter verifying your current status and the circumstances that have taken place with regard to the April examination. Any resident who graduates from an ACGME accredited residency program and receives sign-off by their program director as to having met all ACGME requirements is board-eligible when they graduate. Verification letters may be requested by contacting the Support Center ([help@theabfm.org](mailto:help@theabfm.org) or 877-223-7437). We are hopeful that other organizations and state licensing boards would make allowances for these unprecedented times and we encourage you to reach out to them directly to inquire about changes in light of the COVID-19 situation.

**8. I am a Canadian physician who is supposed to return to Canada after my residency training ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, however I cannot obtain a license without certification, so being able to get a job would be on hold. Are there any alternative options?**

ABFM cannot grant initial board certification until a successful examination attempt takes place and all other requirements are met. However, we would be happy to provide a letter verifying your current status and the circumstances that have taken place with regard to the April examination. Any resident who graduates from an ACGME accredited residency program and receives sign-off by their program director as to having met all ACGME

requirements is board-eligible when they graduate. Verification letters may be requested by contacting the Support Center ([help@theabfm.org](mailto:help@theabfm.org) or 877-223-7437). We are hopeful that other organizations and state licensing boards would make allowances for these unprecedented times and we encourage you to reach out to them directly to inquire about changes in light of the COVID-19 situation.

**9. My employment or future employment requires board certification, but my April examination was cancelled. What can ABFM do to help?**

ABFM cannot grant initial board certification until a successful examination attempt takes place and all other requirements are met. However, we would be happy to provide a letter verifying your current status and the circumstances that have taken place with regard to the April examination. Any resident who graduates from an ACGME accredited residency program and receives sign-off by their program director as to having met all ACGME requirements is board-eligible when they graduate. Verification letters may be requested by contacting the Support Center ([help@theabfm.org](mailto:help@theabfm.org) or 877-223-7437). We are hopeful that other organizations and state licensing boards would make allowances for these unprecedented times and we encourage you to reach out to them directly to inquire about changes in light of the COVID-19 situation.

**10. I am currently 'Not Certified' and was scheduled to take the April 2020 examination, can I enroll in FMCLA instead?**

FMCLA remains in a pilot status and enrollment is still limited to currently certified physicians whose examination requirement is due by December 31, 2020.

**11. As a previously Board Certified physician who was scheduled for the April 2020 Exam to regain certification, can ABFM mark me as 'Certified' in the interim?**

We are not able to do so until all requirements, including the exam, are met. However, we can provide a letter of verification which states your progress toward meeting requirements for regaining board certification and the circumstances of the April 2020 exam cancellation. This has proved useful in some cases to provide to employers and others who may require proof of certification. Verification letters may be requested by contacting the Support Center ([help@theabfm.org](mailto:help@theabfm.org) or 877-223-7437).

**12. I am an initial certification candidate, can I do FMCLA instead given the April exam has been cancelled?**

Initial certification requires a one-day examination. FMCLA is for continuing certification. FMCLA requires 3–4 years to complete 300 questions for scoring. That would delay your ability to be certified for that length of time.

**13. I am a third year resident graduating this year and I am expected to be board certified for my job that starts following residency. Has there been any discussion about potentially opening some dates at the end of April that a few of us could take in this specific scenario? Has there been any discussion into looking into other means of testing?**

Given the current environment it is no longer possible to conduct an examination in April regardless of test center availability. The test centers have closed and may well need to extend how long they are closed. There are a variety of reasons that the examination cannot be offered in an alternative way this year, including the unique ways that it is delivered (random question delivery, delivery of different forms, etc.), the timing of sections, the security of items, the number of responses needed for scoring, the fact that many other physicians beyond residents take the exam in April, and the lack of a delivery platform that could be stood up quickly in the midst of everything else that is happening.

We are focusing our energy on trying to get thousands of exam seats for July/August, if possible, so we can still offer two exam delivery periods in 2020, if the pandemic evolution allows.

Residents who have completed all ACGME requirements and have been signed off on by their program director with a valid medical license meeting ABFM Guidelines are all board eligible when they graduate. Employers accept board certified or board eligible out of residency. Historically, this examination was offered in July following residency, with scores not being provided for 6-8 weeks. It did not impact credentialing or jobs and, we have no reason to suspect that it would this year, especially given the circumstances.