



Knowledge Self-Assessment FAQ

The purpose of the Knowledge Self-Assessment component of Family Medicine Certification is to help identify knowledge gaps and enhance your clinical knowledge to provide high quality care. Options for completing the Knowledge Self-Assessment (KSA) requirement include single, topic-focused activities, or ongoing, quarterly questions covering a broad range of family medicine competencies.

The minimum requirement for this component is to earn 10 points toward your 50-point requirement for each 3-year stage of the continuous certification process. This can be achieved by completing one KSA or four quarters of Continuing Knowledge Self-Assessments (CKSA).

1. What is the difference between a KSA and CKSA activity?

Knowledge Self-Assessment (KSA)

A KSA is an individual, stand-alone activity that is focused on one topic, such as a medical condition (e.g. Diabetes, Heart Disease) or an aspect of care (Care of Children, Behavioral Health). Each KSA has 60 questions to be completed, with a passing score of 80% required. You can take this as many times as needed to achieve the passing threshold. After answering each question, you will receive a critique and set of references to support your learning. For each KSA, you will receive 10 certification points and 8 CME credits.

Continuous Knowledge Self-Assessment (CKSA)

Another way to meet your KSA requirement is to utilize CKSA, which is a platform that provides you with 25 questions each quarter that cover the breath of family medicine topics. These can be done on a computer, tablet, or on your smart phone. There is no minimum passing score. As with the KSA, each question is accompanied by a critique and recommended references to support your learning. For each quarter of participation, you will receive 2.5 certification points and 2.5 CME credits. Completing four quarters in a 3-year stage will fulfill the minimum KSA requirement.

2. How often can a KSA on the same topic be repeated?

A previously completed KSA topic can be repeated every three years for certification credit. This is the timeframe in which KSAs undergo significant review of all questions and include new, different questions within the activity. The content from a KSA remains in your Physician Portfolio for your review at any time during that three-year period. Even after you have met the minimum requirements for your stage, you can utilize/take as many KSAs as you wish for your own learning, at no additional cost beyond your annual certification fee.

3. How often are KSAs updated?

KSAs are reviewed annually for any practice-changing evidence updates that have occurred over the course of the year. Every three years, each KSA undergoes a major revision of content and includes replacement of up to one-third of the questions. These two steps help to ensure that the evidence is up to date and that the activities remain refreshed.

4. [How can I participate in a CKSA?](#)

You can complete a CKSA by logging into the [Physician Portfolio](#) and accessing the "Activities" Page. From here, click on the "Self-Assessment Activities" tab--> click on the "Start" hyperlink next to the Continuous Knowledge Self-Assessment (CKSA) to begin answering questions. You may begin the CKSA at any time within a quarter, but you will only have until the end of the quarter to complete all 25 questions. For example, if you start a CKSA on February 1, 2020, and the quarter for that set of questions began on January 1, 2020, you will have two months (until the end of March) to complete the CKSA rather than three months.

5. [I completed an alternative KSA activity through another specialty board. How can I submit my external credit?](#)

Alternative KSA activities are those that are sponsored by other American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) boards, or by other organizations, such as the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). These provide points credit toward your 50-point requirement for each stage, but do not meet the KSA requirement. If you complete an activity with another ABMS board, you can receive your credit by logging into your [Physician Portfolio](#), accessing the "Activities" page. Then you would select the "Self-Assessment Activities" tab--> Score to the "Alternative Activities" section--> Click on the "start" hyperlink next to the "Approved ABMS Member Board Self-Assessment Activity"--> Select the "Start" button on the next page. Once you are at this point, you will complete the short application and upload a copy of your certificate. ABFM Staff will review the completed activity and upon approval will award 10 certification points for successfully completing the activity.

If you complete an activity sponsored by IHI, IHI will send your completion data to ABFM. Once received by ABFM, your credit will automatically be updated in your Physician Portfolio. We recommend that you review your completed activities in your Physician Portfolio regularly to ensure credit is received and to also maintain your completion certificate from IHI. In the rare event that credit is not transferred from IHI, you may contact the ABFM Support Center who can assist you with manually uploading your completion certification so your credit will be documented.

6. [Will I earn CME credit for completing Alternative Self-Assessment activities?](#)

Yes, Alternative Self-Assessment activities have associated CME credit that is provided by the Sponsoring Organization.

7. [How will ABFM be notified that I have earned CME for completing an Alternative Self-Assessment activity?](#)

Once you have completed an Alternative Self-Assessment activity, you will receive a certificate of CME credit from the Sponsoring Organization. You can enter this information into your CME tracking within your ABFM Physician Portfolio, or if you are a member of AAFP, you can enter this information into your CME Reporter and the credits will transfer to ABFM once your minimum CME requirement has been met.

[For additional help, contact our Support Center](#)

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