

ABPath CertLink® Policy

***This Policy may change based on findings from the ABPath CertLink® assessment pilot program.**

Overview

- The ABPath CertLink pilot is open to all diplomates beginning July 9th, 2018.
- Successful participation in ABPath CertLink is defined as meeting an assessment standard (TBD) for a minimum of 6 of 8 quarters (a quarter is 3 months) during a diplomate's 2-year Continuing Certification period. For the first year, there will be no assessment of performance until January 1, 2020.
- As an incentive, successful participation in ABPath CertLink will reduce the Lifelong Learning SAM requirement by 3 credits for those completing 2 quarters in 2018. Beginning in 2019, diplomates will be able to claim 1.25 SAMs credits for each quarter of participation (more information to follow).
- Because this is a pilot program, it is anticipated that successful participation in ABPath CertLink during years 1-8 of a diplomate's 10-year Continuing Certification (CC) cycle will meet the Knowledge, Judgment, and Skill assessment requirement for that cycle. A summative decision about a diplomate's performance will be made at the end of year 8.
- If a diplomate does not meet the Knowledge, Judgment, and Skill assessment requirements through ABPath CertLink, they will be required to take and pass the Continuing Certification Part III exam.
- Initial registration for participation will occur on a semiannual basis. If registration is submitted past the cutoff date, the diplomate will be assigned to the following 6-month segment.
- Because many questions require viewing images, smartphones are not recommended for ABPath CertLink.

Assessment Construction

- Participating diplomates will receive an email at the beginning of each quarter that notifies them that they have 15 questions to answer plus questions that are repetition of topics previously answered incorrectly.
- Participants will have 5 minutes to answer each question and may use any resource except another individual. Questions may all be answered in one session or multiple sessions; it is the participant's preference. Questions must be completed in the quarter they are assigned. Unanswered questions are scored as incorrect.
- Diplomates will be able to create an assessment relevant to their practice by allocating the percentage of questions they will receive from more than 30 Practice (content) Areas.
- In the first few years of the pilot, there may not be enough questions in all Practice Areas to allow for maximum customization of subspecialty and elective Practice Areas.
- Some allocation of questions will be required based on certifications held.
 - 20% of questions will be general AP and/or CP, depending on your primary certification and
 - 20% of questions will be from your area(s) of subspecialty certification, if applicable
 - If a diplomate has more than one subspecialty certification, 10% of questions will be from each of the areas of subspecialty certification
 - The remaining percentage of questions can be chosen from over 30 elective Practice Areas in increments of 10%. The elective Practice Areas can be adjusted by up to 20% each year.

Non-time Limited Diplomates

- Non-time limited diplomates may electively participate in ABPath CertLink, with no jeopardy to their life-time certification and at no cost for the duration of the pilot. Participants are not required to meet CC requirements, although they are encouraged to voluntarily enroll in the entire CC program at no additional cost and with no jeopardy to their life-time certification.