CertLink® is an innovative technology platform for the creation of online assessment programs that drive physician professional development and learning. It is based on longitudinal assessment, a proven method to help ensure continuous acquisition of knowledge over time and the timely coverage of important topics impacting public health. This method helps physicians increase their understanding, continuing knowledge, and skills toward achieving the practice standards for board certification.

Through CertLink, users can choose when, where and how they take assessments.

CertLink helps physicians learn more efficiently, not study harder. It combines the ease and automation of online assessment with the timeliness of immediate scoring, critique, and suggested resources for self-study. With the longitudinal assessment approach, questions are presented at regular intervals, requiring users to recall what was previously learned and then build on that knowledge. Incorrect answers trigger the system to repeat key information in a new question, keeping learning dynamic and continuous. Knowledge gained in this way can be more readily recalled and applied to various situations.

Benefits for physician board certification

Many ABMS Member Boards are introducing online longitudinal assessment into their continuing certification programs to meet the needs of today’s busy physicians. With flexible tools like CertLink, the assessment, learning, and improvement process can be integrated into physicians’ daily practice workflow. This helps physicians improve quality, create more efficient practices, and become better-informed practitioners.

CertLink supports the assessment, learning, and improvement cycle for board certification. It strengthens physicians’ ability to deliver quality, safe, and efficient patient care in a rapidly changing health care environment.
Assessment and learning with CertLink

Whether using a computer or tablet, users will see screens like these when taking an assessment and tracking their progress.

1. Question

While answering questions, users can access several tools such as a highlighter, calculator, and scratchpad. A timer displays the amount of time allotted to answer a question.

2. Confidence/Relevance

After submitting an answer, users are asked to indicate how confident they are in their response and the relevance of the question to their practice. This feedback will determine the delivery of future questions and help improve content.

3. Critique

Users receive immediate feedback after each question, including an explanation of the correct answer and references for additional study.

4. Performance

The dashboard guides users through the assessment, providing real-time status information including personal performance and peer comparison on the questions answered, status on the number of questions remaining, and time left in the assessment period to finish answering questions and complete the assessment.

For more information, contact connect@mycertlink.org

© 2019 American Board of Medical Specialties

American Board of Medical Specialties

CertLink