

# ABMS Certification Matters

## CME is Not Enough to Ensure Competence in a Specialty

Continuing medical education (CME) are the educational activities a physician completes annually to maintain licensure by their state board. Critics have said that CME should be enough to ensure quality care.

Since CME is self-directed, it depends entirely on physicians' ability to determine their learning needs and find resources to meet them.

There is no method of evaluation in CME to ensure that physicians are remaining current with the knowledge and skills needed to care for patients in their specialty.

Studies show that physicians have trouble identifying and assessing the areas of practice in which they need improvement.

Studies found that physicians who were most confident about their strengths and weaknesses were most likely to be incorrect.<sup>1,2</sup>

Rapid advancements in medical science and medical knowledge make it even more difficult for physicians to know what they don't know.

American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) continuing certification programs are designed to support physicians in assessing their knowledge and helping them identify where to focus their learning to stay up to date with core knowledge and new developments in their specialty.

<sup>1</sup> Davis DA, Mazmanian PE, Fordis M, et al. Accuracy of physician self-assessment compared with observed measures of competence: a systematic review. JAMA. 2006;296(9):1094-102.

<sup>2</sup> Kruger J, Dunning D. Unskilled and unaware of it: How difficulties in recognizing one's own incompetence lead to inflated self-assessments. J Pers Soc Psychol. 1999;77(6):1121-34.



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