

Message From the Associate Executive Director

Leonie Gordon, MB ChB - Associate Executive Director, American Board of Nuclear Medicine

Throughout the COVID-19 epidemic, the American Board of Nuclear Medicine's (ABNM) primary concern is for the health and well-being of our community. We realize that many of our diplomates and trainees have had to navigate and respond to the ever-changing Coronavirus Disease landscape making it more challenging to keep up with many demands. As a result, we made the following modifications to help residents and diplomates stay current with requirements during this difficult time.

Residents in Nuclear Medicine ACGME training programs:

ABNM recognized that the current policy on leave may not allow sufficient time for unplanned leave due to COVID-19, which may include 14 days of home quarantine. ABNM modified its leave policy to allow a one-time exemption for this year: "An additional 2 weeks of leave (10 working days) will be permitted in 2020 for all COVID-19 related reasons, including home quarantine."

ABNM also recognized that cancellation/deferral of non-urgent medical procedures will reduce the number of diagnostic nuclear medicine studies performed in adults and children and will also likely reduce the number of oral radioiodine therapies for hyperthyroidism and thyroid cancer.

ABNM has made a one-time modification of the case experience requirements in 2020 for all COVID-19 related reasons. ([www.abnm.org/ COVID19-Residency_Ltr_20200325](http://www.abnm.org/COVID19-Residency_Ltr_20200325)).

CertLink requirements:

ABNM extended the end of the first quarter of CertLink from March 31 to June 30, 2020 to give diplomates more time to answer the questions released in January 2020. CertLink

participants will not receive additional questions during this time (even those who have already completed their assignment) and will not receive extra questions when new questions become available on July 1. The net effect will be a reduction in the total number of questions in 2020 by one quarter. This action will not have any impact on your CertLink performance, as shown on your dashboard.

Certification/Maintenance of Certification (MOC) examination:

The ABNM is moving forward with the October Certification and MOC Exam. Our testing center partner, Pearson VUE, is taking extra precautions to create the safest possible environment for candidates, including requiring face masks. We encourage eligible candidates to register early once they receive their letters of admission to register for their exam as soon as they are notified of their eligibility by ABNM. We expanded examination time availability to 2 weeks during 2020.

ABNM appreciates the extraordinary efforts made by our specialty and we recognize the associated enhanced health risks and potential for disruptions in both training and certification. We hope these modifications will help.



Leonie Gordon
Associate Executive Director