

ABIM CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE LONGITUDINAL KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) expects the physicians taking its examinations and assessments to uphold fundamental professional, ethical, and moral principles. Moreover, as required by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), physicians must demonstrate a commitment to conducting professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to diverse patient populations.

As a participant in the Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment (LKA), I understand and agree to the following:

1. All the LKA questions and other materials are confidential. Questions or other LKA materials will not be available for review by participants before taking the LKA.
2. All the LKA questions and other materials are the sole property of ABIM and are protected by the federal Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101, et seq., and trade secret laws. Access to such materials is strictly conditioned upon my agreement to abide by ABIM's rights under the Copyright Act and to maintain the confidentiality of such materials.
3. I may not copy, reproduce, adapt, disclose, or transmit assessment questions or other LKA materials (including questions, answer choices, critiques and references), in whole or in part, before or after taking the LKA, by any means. I also may not reconstruct LKA content from memory, by dictation, or by any other means. Nor may I assist anyone else in engaging in any of the foregoing prohibited conduct.
4. I may not discuss the content of the LKA with anyone.
5. While I am viewing LKA questions and materials, I am permitted to use written (printed or electronic) resources as I would in my normal day-to-day practice.
6. I am prohibited from seeking or receiving assistance from other people in responding to LKA questions.
7. I am prohibited from helping other participants in responding to LKA questions.
8. Questions will be available for review after answering. Immediate feedback, rationales and references will also be provided. All of this information is for my use only and I will not share it with anyone.
9. I will be given the opportunity to answer 600 questions over a five-year period and I am expected to answer at least 500 of those questions. Should I neglect to meet the participation requirement within any year or neglect to reach 500 answered questions within the five years, I will be unenrolled from the LKA.
10. Disclosure or any other unauthorized use of LKA content constitutes unprofessional conduct and may expose me to criminal as well as civil liability. Such conduct, or other unprofessional conduct in connection with the LKA, including violation of this Code of Conduct or failure to comply with the rules and instructions for the LKA, also may result in invalidation of assessment results or disciplinary sanctions, including but not limited to: exclusion from future assessments or examinations; suspension or revocation of board certification; and other sanctions.
11. If I learn that questions, answers, or other content from the LKA are being disclosed or shared in any form in violation of this agreement, I will report such conduct to ABIM. My failure to do so may be considered unprofessional conduct and in violation of this Code of Conduct.
12. I have agreed to abide and be bound by the terms, conditions, and rules set forth in ABIM's Policies and Procedures for Certification and in ABIM's website, as they may be amended from time to time.
13. ABIM utilizes data forensic techniques that use statistical analyses of test-response data to identify patterns of test fraud, including cheating and piracy. Irregular behavior that is observed, that is made apparent by data forensics or statistical analysis, or that is discovered by other means may result in disciplinary sanctions.

14. ABIM may take all actions it deems necessary and proper to administer the LKA securely, fairly and efficiently.
15. ABIM reserves the right, at its discretion, to exclude any physician from participation in the LKA at any time.