

From: Royal, Henry [royalh@mir.wustl.edu]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 12:54 PM
To: Howe, Donna-Beth
Cc: 'Adec'
Subject: ABNM certificates.
Attachments: ABMS Approval letter 070403.pdf

Dr. Howe,

I am responding to your phone call to the ABNM office.

The wording on the ABNM certificates was changed in the spring of 2007 (see attached letter from ABMS and sample new certificate) and the first diplomates to be issued the new certificates were those that took the exam in the fall of 2007. I apologize for not letting the NRC know about this change.

Any wording changes on our certificate must be approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). ABMS is the umbrella organization for the 24 medical boards – see www.abms.org for more detail.

In the past, changes to our certificate have occurred infrequently. There have only been 2 changes to our certificate in our 35+ year history. One of these changes occurred recently at the request of the NRC (adding United States or Canada to the certificate). I don't anticipate frequent changes in the future.

The most recent change was motivated for 2 reasons. First, all ABMS boards have now implemented a comprehensive program called maintenance of certification (MOC) to document lifelong learning and continuous quality improvement. To emphasize that participation in MOC was a requirement for the certificate to be valid, the sentence "Maintenance of this certificate requires full participation in the ABNM's Maintenance of Certification program." was added. Second, the ABNM's previous certificate listed the modalities included in nuclear medicine ("including but not limited to Radiobioassay, Nuclear Imaging, In Vivo Measurements & Therapy with Unsealed Radionuclides"). The ABMS requested that the ABNM remove this wording from the certificate because the imaging tests change over time (e.g., PET/CT and SPECT/CT are now frequently performed and radiobioassay is rarely done). By removing the modalities from the ABNM certificate, the certificates are more consistent with the other ABMS boards (e.g., ABR) and should require less frequent future revisions.

Please let me know if there is anything more I need to do to have the NRC recognize the new wording on our certificate. For the next few years, the NRC will need to recognize the 2004 version of the certificate and the new version of the certificate (beginning in 2007).

Is there anyone else at the NRC that I need to notify about these changes?

If you would like to discuss this by phone, it is best to call me at 314 362-2809 and my secretary can find me. Alternatively you can page me at 314 407-9402.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Henry D. Royal, M.D.
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Executive Director, ABNM



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Mail Envelope Properties (81E554FCDDAD964CAE5E1D5EC748D2ED094938AB)

Subject: ABNM certificates.
Sent Date: 4/13/2009 12:54:30 PM
Received Date: 4/13/2009 12:54:31 PM
From: Royal, Henry

Created By: royalh@mir.wustl.edu

Recipients:
Donna-Beth.Howe@nrc.gov (Howe, Donna-Beth)
Tracking Status: None
adec@abnm.org ('Adec')
Tracking Status: None

Post Office:
RAD-VMSRVEXV2.rad.wustl.edu

| Files | Size | Date & Time |
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| MESSAGE | 117858 | 4/13/2009 |
| image001.png | 33194 | |
| ABMS Approval letter 070403.pdf | 70082 | |

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