

# MOC Committee Chair Message

## CertLink® Leave Policy

**Maria Rosana Ponisio, MD** – *MOC Committee Chair, American Board of Nuclear Medicine*

The ABNM continues to offer the diplomates the traditional maintenance of certification examination and the web-based longitudinal assessment, CertLink®. This allows for a longitudinal evaluation by delivering questions regularly, providing immediate feedback on submitted answers, and tracking the users' performance over time. Diplomates are strongly encouraged to participate in CertLink, and completion of the quarterly activities is needed to avoid unanswered questions being perceived as incorrect. The diplomate must update their MOC profile annually to ensure accurate communication between the board and diplomates and avoid negative impact on their certifications.

The [CertLink Leave Policy](#) has recently been updated (CertLink Leave Policy - ABNM) as follows:

During the 4-year cycle after initial certification, a diplomate participating in CertLink may be excused upon written request from answering questions under the following circumstances:

1. One quarter (3 months) for any reason provided the request is made within 6 months of the end of the quarter and before the calendar year in which certification expires.
2. One additional quarter (3 months), when requested in advance (before the start of the quarter), for medical or family leave, natural disaster, or other situations beyond an individual's control. Documentation must be provided.

During subsequent 5-year cycles after recertification, a diplomate participating in CertLink may be excused upon request from answering questions under the following circumstances:

1. One quarter (3 months) for any reason provided the request is made within 6 months of the end of the quarter and before the calendar year in which certification expires.
2. Three additional quarters (9 months), when requested in advance (before the start of the quarter), for medical or family leave, natural disaster, or other situation beyond an individual's control. The quarters may be non-consecutive. Documentation must be provided.

Leave requests must be made in writing via email to [certlink@abnm.org](mailto:certlink@abnm.org). If leave is not requested per this policy, or not granted, unanswered questions will be given a score of zero, and be included in a diplomate's final score for the CertLink cycle used for recertification.

Nuclear Medicine program directors are asked to encourage new trainees to participate in CertLink® IT, which provides an important tool in preparation for the certification. The trainees are automatically enrolled in CertLink IT and can begin participating after taking the ABNM In-Training exam in January.