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6 July 2009

Dear NEAIHA Interested Parties:

Thank you for your well documented letter of April 13, 2009, requesting a re-evaluation of the Certification Maintenance (CM) points awarded by ABIH for past NEAIHA meetings. I appreciate the opportunity to work out a reasonable solution that is fair for NEAIHA members but doesn't negatively impact the integrity of the CM program. I will segment my response for two groups: 1) Those due to recertify at the end of 2009, and 2) Everyone else.

1) Certification Cycle 2005-2009

No one from the NEAIHA who is due to recertify in the 2005-2009 CM cycle will lose their certification as a result of the misinterpretation regarding CM points for the NEAIHA "Monthly Meetings". I'm concerned about this CM cycle primarily because these individuals will have insufficient time to accrue additional CM points, if needed.

If any of the 2005-2009 CM cycle Diplomates are unable to achieve the minimum 40 CM points (for the 5 year cycle) due to the "Monthly Meetings" misinterpretation, please have these people contact me by September 1, 2009 for a *preliminary* evaluation of their CM Worksheets. I will work one-on-one with these individuals. This will give us time to work out issues before the end of the year.

2) All Other Certification Cycles \geq 2006-2010

For any Diplomate due to recertify in a subsequent CM cycle (i.e. \geq 2006-2010), I believe that no special treatment needs to be afforded since there is adequate time to accrue additional CM points if needed. Let me further explain.

NEAIHA has asked ABIH to retroactively allow 0.5 CM points for 18 Monthly Meetings from September 2004 to September 2008. I consider the 2004 Monthly Meetings to be out of scope for our discussion (i.e. this was the 2004-2008 CM cycle). This leaves in scope 16 Monthly Meetings which occurred between January 2005 and September 2008. Thus, NEAIHA is asking for a maximum of 8 CM points (0.5 CM points X 16 meetings).

From ABIH's perspective, for 9 (of the 16) Monthly Meetings, a "2 hours" designation was listed in the ABIH CM Approvals letter (and in the online database). For these 9 meetings, the Diplomate will accrue 0.5 CM points for every 3 hours of technical



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presentation up to a maximum possible of 3 CM points (if someone participated in all 9 meetings). For the remaining 7 Monthly Meetings where ABIH did not provide the "hours" designation, the CIH will accrue 0.5 CM point/Monthly Meeting, for a maximum possible of 3.5 CM points. Thus, AIHA is allowing a maximum of 6.5 CM points for the 16 meetings.

In other words, for the 16 meetings, NEAIHA has asked for a maximum of 8 CM points whereas ABIH is allowing a maximum of 6.5 CM points. This is a difference of only 1.5 CM points which I believe does not pose an undue hardship for anyone due to recertify in the CM cycles \geq 2006-2010.

On a related note, I would also like to point out that ABIH has reduced the minimum time for awarding CM points from 3 hours to 1 hour. Officially, this rule goes into effect on January 1, 2010 but we have begun operationally piloting the change for any activity less than 3 hours and greater than 1 hour. I believe that this change will eliminate any confusion regarding CM Point accruals for the future NEAIHA meetings.

Lastly, since ABIH does not know who is in the NEAIHA local section, please forward this communication to the membership.

I appreciate you taking the time to identify and thoroughly document NEAIHA's concerns. It helps me identify improvement opportunities for the ABIH processes. If you have any further questions or comments about this issue, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



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Administrative Program Manager



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