

AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Internal Medicine-Critical Care Medicine (IM-CCM) Eligibility Criteria for ABEM Diplomates Seeking Certification in IM-CCM

Effective February 2012

Certification in the subspecialty of Internal Medicine-Critical Care Medicine (IM-CCM) is available to diplomates of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) who fulfill the eligibility criteria and pass the IM-CCM certification examination. ABEM co-sponsors this subspecialty with the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).

GENERAL CRITERIA

The general criteria for ABEM diplomates to be eligible for certification in IM-CCM include the following:

- 1) The diplomate must be meeting the requirements of the ABEM Maintenance of Certification program.
- 2) Medical licensure must be in compliance with the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure.
- 3) The diplomate must fulfill the eligibility criteria of the pathway through which they apply, as defined below.
- 4) ABEM must be able to obtain independent verification of clinical competence in Critical Care Medicine; successful completion of IM-CCM fellowship training; and, if the physician applies via the practice pathway, the physician's practice of CCM.

APPLICATION PATHWAYS

There are two application pathways for certification in IM-CCM: an ACGME-accredited fellowship pathway (training pathway) and a practice pathway.

Training Pathway

The applicant must have successfully completed an ACGME-accredited IM-CCM fellowship on or after September 21, 2011, that is a minimum of 24 months duration.

ABEM will independently verify, with the fellowship program director, the applicant's successful completion of that training and the applicant's clinical competence in CCM.

Physicians seeking certification in more than one subspecialty or specialty may not apply the same subspecialty fellowship training period toward fulfillment of requirements of more than one specialty or subspecialty.

Practice Pathway

The practice application pathway requires both completion of a 24-month CCM fellowship and practice of CCM as defined below. This pathway will be available to ABEM diplomates for the

first five years and will close on the last day of the fifth application period, anticipated to be June 30, 2016.

Training component

The applicant must have successfully completed a CCM fellowship of at least 24 months duration. The fellowship must be one of the following:

- An ACGME-accredited IM-CCM fellowship completed before September 21, 2011.
- An unaccredited IM-CCM fellowship that subsequently became ACGME accredited on or before December 31, 1992.
- An ACGME-accredited fellowship in another critical care specialty (e.g. Surgery-CCM, Anesthesiology-CCM)

Practice component

The applicant must have completed the following practice as of the date on which the application is submitted to ABEM.

For at least three, not necessarily contiguous, years of the five years prior to submitting an application for certification in IM-CCM, including the twelve months immediately prior to submitting an application, the applicant must have completed one of the following*:

- 40% of their post-training clinical practice time in the practice of CCM
- 25% of their total post-training professional time in the practice of CCM.

Practice component exception for physicians who completed accredited IM-CCM fellowship training between September 21, 2008, through September 20, 2011

Applicants who successfully completed an ACGME-accredited IM-CCM fellowship in the three years prior to September 21, 2011 (i.e. September 21, 2008, through September 20, 2011), may apply for certification if, during 60% of the time between completing fellowship training and applying for certification, they completed one of the following*:

- 40% of their post-training clinical practice time in the practice of CCM
- 25% of their total post-training professional time in the practice of CCM.

* Physicians whose total practice exceeds 40 hours per week may use 40 hours as the denominator of their 40% or 25% calculation.

Attestation and verification for all practice applicants

All practice pathway applicants must attest that they have satisfactory clinical competence in the following specific areas:

- Care of patients presenting with critical care illness traditionally cared for in an MICU
- Multi-disciplinary care involving ABIM- or other ABMS member board-certified specialists and subspecialists.

Satisfactory clinical competence is defined as

- clinical experience that meets these criteria
- clinical privileges that have never been suspended or revoked by a hospital, nor has the physician ever knowingly taken steps to avoid suspension or revocation of clinical privileges.

ABEM will seek independent verification of the applicant's practice in CCM and clinical competence in CCM from the Program Director of an ACGME-accredited CCM fellowship affiliated with the hospital where the candidate spends the majority of clinical time. If an accredited CCM fellowship is not present at this hospital, ABEM will seek verification by the Chief of Critical Care Medicine in the hospital where the applicant spends the majority of clinical time. Should the applicant actually be the Chief of Critical Care, verification can be made by the Chief of Staff, Vice-President of Medical Affairs, or someone in a similar position.

CERTIFICATION

A candidate who has met the eligibility criteria and who passes the subspecialty examination is recognized as being certified in the subspecialty of Internal Medicine – Critical Care Medicine. Certification is for a period of ten years.

An ABEM diplomate's primary certification in Emergency Medicine must be current for certification in IM-CCM to be valid.