

**American Board of Emergency Medicine  
Certification in Internal Medicine-Critical Care Medicine  
(IM-CCM)**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

- 1. What are the requirements for certification in IM-CCM?** The general requirements for ABEM diplomates seeking certification in IM-CCM are as follows:

- 1) The physician must be an ABEM diplomate 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 described in **FAQ 2**.
- 4) ABEM must obtain independent verification of successful completion of IM-CCM fellowship training; clinical competence in Critical Care Medicine; and, if the physician applies via the practice pathway, the physician's practice of CCM.

The complete eligibility criteria can be viewed on the ABEM website under Subspecialty Certification – IM-CCM. Click [here](#) to view that information.

- 2. What are the application pathways available to ABEM diplomates?** There are two pathways for certification: a training pathway and a practice pathway. The practice pathway includes both a training and a practice component. The complete eligibility criteria can be viewed on the ABEM website under Subspecialty Certification – IM-CCM. Click [here](#) to view the eligibility criteria.
- 3. For how long will the practice pathway be available?** The practice pathway of application will be available through the end of the application period in 2016, anticipated to be June 30, 2016. Applicants must have fulfilled all requirements of this pathway as of the date on which they submit their application to ABEM.
- 4. How do I apply for IM-CCM certification?** ABEM diplomates submit applications to ABEM during the application period. (Click [here](#) to view the application period and fees.) ABEM determines if the applicant fulfills the eligibility criteria. Physicians must have an approved, active IM-CCM application on file with ABEM if they wish to take the IM-CCM certification exam. If you wish to receive an application packet contact ABEM at [subspecialties@abem.org](mailto:subspecialties@abem.org). The application packet can be sent to you via email or regular mail.

Diplomates of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) seeking IM-CCM certification should contact ABIM for specific information about their application process.

- 5. What if an ABEM diplomate is also a diplomate of the ABIM? How do they apply for the examination?** Physicians who are diplomates of ABEM and ABIM may choose the board through which they wish to apply. Their IM-CCM certificate will be issued by the board through which they apply for certification in IM-CCM.

6. **What is the deadline for ABEM diplomates to apply for certification in IM-CCM?** ABEM sets the dates for its application cycle annually. View the current dates [here](#).
7. **What are the fees related to IM-CCM certification?** Both the application and the examination fee must be submitted with the application. The application fee is an administrative fee and *is not* refundable. If ABEM determines that a diplomate does not fulfill the eligibility criteria, the examination fee is refunded in full. If the physician withdraws from the examination, 90% of the examination fee is refunded. View the current fees [here](#).
8. **When is the IM-CCM certification examination offered?** The IM-CCM certification examination is offered by ABIM each fall in Pearson VUE testing centers. View the current examination date [here](#).
9. **How do I schedule an appointment to take the examination?** ABEM will register you for the IM-CCM examination by submitting your name to ABIM. This will happen after your application has been approved as meeting the eligibility criteria, or approved contingent on ABEM receiving verification of your practice and/or your training. After ABIM receives your name from ABEM and obtains authorization from Pearson VUE for you to schedule your examination appointment, you will receive a letter from ABIM stating that you can schedule your examination appointment directly with Pearson VUE. You must schedule your appointment at least 48 hours before the examination day.
10. **How does an ABEM diplomate request special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?** Information regarding how to submit a request for special testing accommodations is included in the IM-CCM application packet. Requests must be submitted to ABEM at the same time the application is sent to ABEM.

ABEM offers a limited range of exam accommodations. If you submit a request for accommodations, with appropriate documentation, ABEM will review your request and determine if it will be granted. If the decision is favorable, your examination appointment will occur on a different day (or days) than the regular examination day.
11. **What does the examination cover?** Click [here](#) to see the detailed IM Critical Care Medicine Certification examination blueprint. This information includes the content areas the examination covers, their relative percentages, and the approximate number of questions in each area to expect in a typical examination.
12. **When and how will I receive my examination scores?** You will receive your examination scores from ABEM via regular mail no more than 90 days after the examination. At this time, you will receive your scores only by U.S. mail.
13. **How long is the certification effective?** The IM-CCM certification is for ten years.
14. **What are the ongoing requirements to maintain this certification?** To maintain IM-CCM certification, ABEM diplomates must maintain their primary certification in Emergency Medicine. ABEM diplomates must continue to meet the requirements of the ABEM Maintenance of Certification program.

**15. I have heard that EM residency graduates cannot enroll in IM-CCM fellowships. How is it possible to meet the eligibility criteria in that case?**

As part of the agreement by which ABEM now co-sponsors certification in IM-CCM, ACGME-accredited IM-CCM fellowship programs may now accept EM residency graduates if they so choose. However, an IM-CCM fellowship must have 75% of its positions filled by IM residency graduates.

**16. Are there unique requirements for Emergency Medicine residency graduates to enter an ACGME-accredited IM-CCM fellowship training program?**

The ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Critical Care Medicine specify that graduates of ACGME-accredited Emergency Medicine programs should have completed at least six months of direct patient care experience in internal medicine, of which at least three months must have been in a medical intensive care unit during their EM residency training. (Click [here](#) to read those requirements.) These revised IM-CCM program requirements go into effect July 1, 2012.

A fellow may complete the rotations needed to fulfill this requirement while they are enrolled in the IM-CCM fellowship program. However, they cannot supervise IM residents until these rotations are completed. These rotations can replace other rotations in the fellowship program so that the fellow's training need not be extended beyond the standard two years.

**17. I completed fellowship training in another type of CCM (Surgery or Anesthesiology). Is there a way for me to become certified in IM-CCM?** If your ACGME-accredited Surgery or Anesthesiology CCM fellowship training was at least 24 months duration, and if you meet the practice requirements, you may apply for certification through the practice pathway while that pathway is in place (through the end of the application period in 2016). If the fellowship training was less than 24 months duration or was not ACGME-accredited, you are not eligible to apply for certification in IM-CCM. ABEM continues to explore avenues for EM residency graduates to become certified in Surgery CCM and Anesthesiology CCM.