

## **AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE (ABEM)**

### **ANESTHESIOLOGY CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ABEM-CERTIFIED PHYSICIANS**

The critical care medicine physician is a specialist whose knowledge is of necessity broad, involving all aspects of management of the critically ill patient, and whose primary base of operation is the intensive care unit (ICU). This physician has completed training in a primary specialty and has received additional training in critical care medicine aspects of many disciplines. This background enables the physician to work in concert with the various specialists on the patient care team in the ICU; to utilize recognized techniques for vital support; to teach other physicians, nurses and health professionals the practice of intensive care; and to foster research.

Certification in the subspecialty of Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine (ACCM) is available to American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM)–certified physicians who fulfill the eligibility criteria and pass the ACCM subspecialty examination. ABEM co-sponsors this subspecialty with the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA).

The ABA is the administrative board for the ACCM subspecialty. The ABA develops and oversees the administration of the subspecialty examination. ABEM-certified physicians submit applications for certification in ACCM to ABEM. ABEM reviews the applicant's credentials to determine eligibility, reports the results of the examination, and issues certificates to its candidates. All applicants are encouraged to review the [FAQs](#) for more details about the application process and eligibility criteria.

The ACCM eligibility criteria for ABEM-certified physicians were mutually determined by the ABA and ABEM. These criteria cannot be appealed.

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The general criteria for emergency physicians seeking certification in ACCM are as follows:

- The physician must be certified by ABEM.
- The physician must be participating in ABEM's continuing certification process at the time of application and throughout the certification process.
- The physician must fulfill the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure.

Additionally, the physician must fulfill the eligibility criteria of either the Fellowship Training Pathway.

#### **APPLICATION PATHWAYS**

##### **Fellowship Training Pathway**

These criteria pertain to ABEM-certified physicians who enter ACGME-accredited, ABA-approved, ACCM fellowship programs on or after **July 1, 2014**.

ABEM-certified physicians must meet all of the following requirements:

Prior to entering an ACCM fellowship program, and during the ACGME-accredited EM residency, emergency physicians must have completed four months (or 16 weeks) of critical care training. Emergency physicians must successfully complete an ACGME-accredited ACCM fellowship program;

**and**

Complete an additional 12 months of ACCM training that have been prospectively approved by the ABA. This additional 12 months of training must occur at the same site as the ACCM fellowship program.

The fellowship program and additional ACCM training requirements for emergency physicians are available from the.

ABEM will independently verify with the fellowship program director, the applicant's successful completion of the ACCM fellowship training.

The physician must successfully complete the fellowship training by the date of the examination.

### **TIMING CONSIDERATIONS**

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

Further, CCM practice that occurred during residency or fellowship training cannot count toward the practice time requirement.

### **CERTIFICATION**

ABEM-certified physicians who have met the ACCM eligibility criteria and who pass the ACCM Certification Examination are recognized as being certified in the subspecialty of Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine. Certification is for a period of five years.

Certificates are dated from the day the examination results are made available to the physician and expire December 31, five years thereafter. Physicians certified in ACCM are not required to maintain their Emergency Medicine certification, but are required to participate in the ACCM continuing certification process in order to renew certification beyond five years.

Initially Approved June 2013  
Effective July 2013  
Revised February 2021