

# **AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

## **UNDERSEA AND HYPERBARIC MEDICINE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION**

Effective March 20, 2007

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) has established a procedure for subspecialty certification in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine. This certification is a joint program of ABEM and the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM). In addition to the requirements of the following specific pathways of application, ABEM and ABPM each have general requirements, which must be fulfilled. These general requirements are available from each of the board offices.

### **GENERAL**

The American Board of Emergency Medicine has adopted general criteria for certification in a subspecialty which include the following:

- 1) The physician must be a diplomate in good standing of the American Board of Emergency Medicine. The diplomate's primary certificate must be valid in order for the subspecialty certificate to remain valid.
- 2) The physician must fulfill the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure.

### **APPLICATION PATHWAYS**

There are three application pathways for the certification examination in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine: two fellowship application pathways and a training plus practice pathway.

#### **Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship Pathways**

For both fellowship pathways, the physician must satisfactorily complete the fellowship training by August 1 preceding the date of the examination. ABEM will request verification of successful completion of the fellowship training directly from the program director.

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

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) - accredited Fellowship Training

A physician must have successfully completed a minimum of 12 months in an ACGME-accredited Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine fellowship program. If the program is longer than 12 months, the physician must successfully complete all years of training for which the program is accredited in order to meet the Board's eligibility criteria for certification.

Non-accredited Fellowship Training

A physician must have successfully completed a fellowship in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine that is acceptable to the American Board of Emergency Medicine. The fellowship must be at least 12 months in length and at least 25% of the fellow's time must be spent in the actual management of undersea and hyperbaric medicine cases. The fellowship training curriculum as well as a description of the actual training experience, including the amount of time the physician spent in teaching, patient care, and course work must also be submitted.

The United States Navy Undersea Medical Officer course does not fulfill the fellowship pathway requirement.

This pathway of application closes on July 1, 2010. Physicians may submit applications with non-accredited Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine fellowship training postmarked through June 30, 2010.

**Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Training Plus Practice**

The training plus practice pathway is available to physicians who, through study and focused practice experience, have developed qualifications in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine. The criteria for this category consist of two components:

1. The physician must submit documentation of successful completion of a basic course in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine. This course may have been completed under the sponsorship of a civilian organization or the United States military. If completed under the sponsorship of a civilian organization, the length of the course must have been at least 40 hours followed by formal assessment. If the course is sponsored by the military it must be two weeks in length.

The course must have included practical hyperbaric chamber-side instruction that covered the following training components. Military-sponsored courses must be augmented by additional aspects unique to the military environment.

- a. Historical Considerations
- b. Physics of Hyperbaric Oxygen
- c. Mechanisms of Hyperbaric Oxygen
- d. Air Decompression Procedures
- e. Hyperbaric Treatment Indications
- f. Side Effects and Contraindications
- g. Patient Assessment and Management
- h. Hyperbaric Chamber Systems
- i. Hyperbaric Safety & Emergency Procedures
- j. Administrative/Management Issues
- k. Clinical and Technical Practicum
- l. Practical Experience and Observations

2. The physician must submit documentation of a two-year period of time in which he or she spent a minimum of 25% of his or her time in the practice of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine. Documentation of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine research and teaching activities may also be submitted for review. During this two-year period, the practice must be devoted to one or more of the following treatment indications:
  - a. Decompression sickness
  - b. Air or gas embolism
  - c. Carbon monoxide poisoning and smoke inhalation
  - d. Gas gangrene
  - e. Crush injury
  - f. Enhancement of healing in selected wounds
  - g. Necrotizing soft tissue infections
  - h. Osteomyelitis
  - i. Radiation tissue damage
  - j. Skin grafts and flaps (compromised)
  - k. Thermal burns
  - l. Intracranial abscess
  - m. Exceptional blood loss

Documentation of involvement in the management of approximately 100 cases with a distribution across these 13 treatment indications in proportion to the frequency with which they are encountered at the institution must be presented with the application.

Practice time must have occurred in the United States, its territories, or in Canada. Practices occurring outside of these locations will not be accepted.

Practice time need not be continuous. However, all practice time must have occurred in the five-year interval immediately preceding application for certification.

This pathway of application closes on July 1, 2010. Physicians may submit applications using this pathway postmarked through June 30, 2010.