

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

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION**

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) certification program, developed by the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM), is designed to standardize physician training and qualifications for EMS practice, to improve patient safety and enhance the quality of emergency medical care provided to patients in the prehospital environment, and to facilitate further integration of prehospital patient treatment into the continuum of patient care.

Certification in the subspecialty of EMS is available to physicians certified by any ABMS member board or the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM), who meet the eligibility criteria established by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. All applicants are encouraged to review the [FAQs](#) for more details about the application process and eligibility criteria.

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

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

- The physician must be certified by an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member board or by the AOBEM. (For AOBEM-certified physicians, see Special Considerations for AOBEM-certified physicians, page 2)
- The physician must be participating in a continuing certification process or the AOBEM Osteopathic Continuing Certification (OCC) program 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**

The Fellowship Training pathway requires that physicians successfully complete an ACGME- accredited EMS fellowship that is a minimum of one year. For physicians who apply through the Fellowship Training Pathway, ABEM will seek independent verification of the physician's successful completion of the EMS fellowship program from the EMS fellowship program director.

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

### **Special Consideration for AOBEM-certified Physicians**

AOBEM-certified physicians may apply for subspecialty certification if all their fellowship training occurs in an ACGME-accredited fellowship on and after July 1, 2015. This opportunity is available to AOBEM-certified physicians who graduate from an ACGME-accredited fellowship before July 1, 2022. The ABEM eligibility criteria do not allow AOBEM -certified physicians who were enrolled in, or who graduated from ACGME-accredited fellowship programs before July 1, 2015, to apply for ABEM subspecialty certification.

### **CERTIFICATION**

Physicians who have met the EMS eligibility criteria and who pass the EMS Certification Examination are recognized as being certified in the subspecialty of Emergency Medical Services. Certification is for a period of ten years.

Original certificates are dated from the day the examination results are made available to the physician, and expire December 31, ten years thereafter.

To renew certification, a physician must fulfill the requirements of the EMS continuing certification process.

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