

American Board of Emergency Medicine

**Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

- 1. Is Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography (AEMUS) a new subspecialty?**  
No. AEMUS is a [Focused Practice Designation](#) (FPD), a recognition first approved by the [American Board of Medical Specialties](#) in 2017. FPD recognizes areas of practice that either evolve as physicians progress throughout their professional careers or emerge due to advances in medicine.
- 2. How does AEMUS differ from ultrasonography skills that ABEM-certified physicians have without this recognition? What is the difference in skills and abilities between an ABEM-certified emergency physician and one with recognition in AEMUS?** While residency-trained emergency physicians have acquired basic expertise applying ultrasound in the emergency department, physicians who specialize in AEMUS will have acquired a greater breadth and depth of experience in advanced techniques, research, and quality improvement skills.
- 3. I am certified by another ABMS Member Board. Will I be able to apply for AEMUS?**  
No. Only physicians certified in Emergency Medicine by ABEM or AOBEM can apply for AEMUS recognition. AOBEM-certified physicians have access to the FPD via the training pathway (see FAQ #6).
- 4. What will I have to do to obtain the recognition?** Physicians currently certified by ABEM must meet the eligibility criteria and pass a half-day, secure, multiple choice examination. Physicians who pass the examination must participate in an ABEM-approved continuing certification program.
- 5. When will the first examination be available?** The first examination will take place in 2021 at the earliest.
- 6. What are the requirements that ABEM- and AOBEM-certified physicians must meet to apply for AEMUS FPD?** Physicians currently certified by ABEM will have access to the FPD via three pathways: a training pathway, a practice-plus-training pathway, and a practice-only pathway. The practice-plus-training pathway and the practice-only pathway will be available for a limited time. The detailed requirements of these two pathways are still being discussed. Physicians currently certified by AOBEM will have access to the FPD only through the training pathway. The training pathway will require one year of ABEM-approved fellowship training based on *The Core Content of Clinical Ultrasonography Fellowship Training*.
- 7. Which fellowships are "ABEM approved?"** Currently, there are no ABEM- approved fellowships. ABEM is working with leaders and experts in Advanced EM Ultrasonography to establish the process for approving fellowship training programs.
- 8. Will ABEM be selecting which fellowship programs will be accepted to fulfill the training requirement?** No. ABEM has designated an independent approval body to develop the program requirements for ABEM approval, and to receive and review applications from fellowship programs. The programs approved by that independent approval body will be considered "ABEM approved" fellowships.

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