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 can apply for AEMUS recognition.

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 process.

5. **I am certified by AOBEM. Will I be able to apply for AEMUS?**
   Yes. AOBEM-certified physicians will have access to the FPD though a time-limited, training pathway. The training pathway will require one year of fellowship training accredited by the Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship Accreditation Council (EUFAC). Fellowship training must be completed before July 1, 2022.

6. **When will the first examination be available?**
   The first examination will take place in 2022 at the earliest.

7. **What are the requirements that ABEM-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 defined in the eligibility criteria.

8. **Which fellowships are “ABEM approved?”**
   Currently, there are no ABEM-approved fellowships. The Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship Accreditation Council (EUFAC) will accredit training programs based on AEMUS Program Requirements. Additional information is available on the EUFAC website.

9. **Will ABEM be selecting which fellowship programs will be accepted to fulfill the training requirement?**
   No. A designated, independent panel developed the program requirements for ABEM approval. The EUFAC will receive and review applications from fellowship programs. The programs accredited by EUFAC will be considered “ABEM approved” fellowships.
10. **Do CMS regulations for fellowships apply to EUFAC-accredited AEMUS fellowships the same way as they do for ACGME-accredited fellowships?** No, CMS regulations do not apply to AEMUS fellowships. AEMUS fellowships should be considered similar to other non-ACGME-accredited fellowships within your institution with regard to complement numbers and CMS funding. Specific requirements related to funding are incorporated broadly into the [AEMUS Program Requirements](#). Please refer to Sections I.A, I.B, and II.D. For questions related to fellowship funding, you are encouraged to seek guidance from your institution’s Designated Institutional Official.

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