



Policy on Research

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) Research Policy is to guide the development, conduct, and publication of research associated with ABEM examinations and other activities.

POLICY

Definition of Research

For the purpose of this policy, research is defined as any study that will require peer review as well as any study that is intended to be published in a peer-reviewed journal, placed on the ABEM website after Board of Director (BOD) member review and approval, or presented at a conference subject to approval by the sponsoring organization. Other studies to carry on the work of the Board, such as standard-setting studies, practice analyses, and predictive validity studies, do not fall under this definition.

Eligibility

Four groups could conduct research studies using ABEM data: ABEM Directors, outside organizations (defined as not-for-profit EM or research organizations, or individuals associated with these organizations), ABEM-certified physician researchers, and ABEM staff.

ABEM shall consider research with the following purposes, in order of priority:

- Validate existing ABEM activities
- Inform Board decisions
- Provide information to the medical community and public

Although these priorities will guide the process, ABEM reserves the right to prioritize areas of research interest. Regarding competing priorities, the Research Committee will determine the order and magnitude of resources committed.

Submission of a Proposal

When an eligible researcher wishes to conduct research using ABEM data, a written proposal must be submitted to the ABEM Director of Research using the research proposal form that is publicly available on the ABEM website. Submissions can be made on a rolling basis and will be presented at one of the quarterly Research Committee meetings for review and determination.

ABEM reserves the right to select the formats available for data transmission to the lead researcher. The ABEM Data Sharing Agreement is required to be signed by the eligible researcher. Any member of the research team using ABEM data will be required to sign a data compliance form.

Research proposals must be comprehensive enough to allow reviewers to fully understand the research's purpose and how the data and analysis plan will achieve that purpose.

Academic Authorship

Authors may include current ABEM Directors, staff, and other external researchers contributing directly to the research and publication or presentation.

Copyright

ABEM will hold the copyright for research requested by an ABEM committee or task force and/or research clearly on behalf of ABEM that is completed by ABEM staff. The author(s) will retain the copyright to each written publication and presentation in all other cases.

Approval

The Research Committee will first review research proposals guided by this policy. The Committee can recommend proposals to the BOD for approval. The Committee may make recommendations based on considerations including, but not limited to:

- ABEM research priorities
- Importance of research to ABEM and Emergency Medicine
 - Resource stewardship
 - Feasibility
- Interest (to ABEM and/or the specialty)
- Involvement of external partners
- Availability of funding sources

The right to approve, deny, or withdraw support for any proposed research rests entirely with the BOD and is solely at its discretion. Researchers will be given written notice of approval or denial of their proposal within 30 days of the BOD meeting at which the proposal is considered.

Confidentiality and Ownership of Data

ABEM will not publicly provide data that could be used to identify individual residents or fellows, training programs, applicants, candidates, diplomates, former diplomates, or other study participants.

As part of the Data Sharing Agreement, all members of the research team involved in an approved proposal must sign an ABEM data compliance agreement.

ABEM will construct a data set with the specific elements requested by the researcher in their proposal.

EXCEPTIONS

Ongoing, internal ABEM research activities are exempt from this policy and include examination development, quality control activities, and routine longitudinal study research activities.

For research completed by staff, the proposal should indicate whether the project is independently initiated or work-for-hire.