



American Board of Emergency Medicine

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February 11, 2011

Philip Shayne, M.D., President
Council of Emergency Medicine Residency Directors
PO Box 80198
Lansing, MI 48908

Dear Dr. Shayne:

In response to changes we recently made to the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) Policy on Credit for Training in Other Specialties, you had asked a question on behalf of the Council of Emergency Medicine Residency Directors (CORD) about the possibility of residents receiving credit for doing non-Emergency Medicine residency training of less than 24 months in duration.

This question was referred to the ABEM Academic Affairs Committee. After a thorough review and judicious deliberation, ABEM has decided to maintain its recently revised policy. A copy of the policy is enclosed.

Should CORD have any information that supports any further consideration on this matter, ABEM would be willing to reconsider its position. Thank you for your question and interest in ABEM policy.

Best regards,

Mark T. Steele, M.D.
President

MTS/EJR/smd
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Enclosure

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Policy on Credit for Training in Other Specialties

BACKGROUND

The Board wishes to state clearly its policy regarding how credit can be granted to incoming Emergency Medicine residents who have completed previous post graduate training in specialties other than Emergency Medicine.

POLICY

ABEM may approve credit for prior training prospective Emergency Medicine residents completed in other specialties under the following criteria:

1. An individual resident may receive a maximum of 12 months of equivalent credit for training in another specialty. The total number of months a resident must complete in an ACGME-accredited Emergency Medicine residency program is reduced by the number of months of credit approved.
2. Acceptable training in another specialty is defined as follows
 - The individual resident must have successfully completed graduated training, without repeating a postgraduate level, of at least 24 months duration in a single ACGME-accredited program or combined specialty program that has been approved by both respective specialty boards.
 - The 24 months of training must have been in a clinical specialty and must count toward fulfilling the clinical requirements of the program.
 - The entire 24 months of training must have occurred within the 60-month period prior to entry into the Emergency Medicine program.
3. Rotations for which credit can be approved include the following:
 - Rotations completed in another specialty must be equivalent to rotations required in the Emergency Medicine residency program.
 - Up to two months of the requested credit can be for Emergency Medicine rotations the resident completed while enrolled in training for another specialty, provided that the rotations were completed at a location with an ACGME-accredited Emergency Medicine residency program.
4. Requirements for submitting the request for credit are as follows:
 - The Emergency Medicine residency program director must submit the request for credit to ABEM, and ABEM must approve the request, prior to the resident's enrollment in the Emergency Medicine program.
 - The request must address a specific resident
 - The request must identify the specific rotations the resident completed in another specialty that are equivalent to specific rotations required in the Emergency Medicine residency program.
 - A copy of documentation verifying the resident's successful completion of training in another specialty must be submitted to ABEM with the request for credit.
 - ABEM approval will apply only to the program submitting the request and will not be transferable.
 - Board approval is specific to the anticipated start date as listed in the program director's request for credit. If the resident does not begin the program as planned, a new request for equivalent credit must be submitted to the Board for review.

For purposes of administratively evaluating requests from four-year programs, the first year of a four-year program is identified as EM 0. Therefore, credit requested by the program director and approved by the Board will apply to training beyond the first year of the program.

EXCEPTION

None

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