

AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE (ABEM)

MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION

Medical toxicologists are physicians who specialize in the prevention, evaluation, treatment, and monitoring of injury and illness from exposures to drugs and chemicals, as well as biological and radiological agents. Medical toxicologists care for people in clinical, academic, governmental, and public health settings, and provide poison control center leadership. Important areas of medical toxicology include acute drug poisoning; adverse drug events; drug abuse, addiction, and withdrawal; chemicals and hazardous materials; terrorism preparedness; venomous bites and stings; and environmental and workplace exposures.

Certification in the subspecialty of Medical Toxicology (MedTox) is available to physicians certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) or the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM), as well as of a non-sponsoring American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) board, who fulfill the eligibility criteria and pass the Medical Toxicology Certification Examination. ABEM co-sponsors this subspecialty with the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP), and the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM). Physicians certified by those two boards who meet the eligibility criteria established by their respective home boards and pass the certification examination may also be certified in Medical Toxicology.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The general criteria for physicians seeking certification through ABEM, in MedTox are as follows:

- The physician must be certified by an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member board or the AOBEM. (For AOBEM-certified physicians, see Special Considerations for AOBEM-certified Physicians, page 2)
- Physicians certified by the ABP and the ABPM will apply through their home board.
- The physician must be participating in their primary Board continuing certification process 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 the Fellowship Training Pathway.

Fellowship Training Pathway

Physicians who entered fellowship training in MedTox, are required to have successfully completed a minimum of 24 months in a MedTox fellowship program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

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

ABEM will independently verify with the fellowship program director, the applicant's successful completion of the MedTox fellowship training.

Special Consideration for AOBEM-certified Physicians

AOBEM-certified physicians may apply for subspecialty certification if all of 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.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

Physicians seeking certification in more than one specialty or subspecialty may not apply the same postgraduate training period toward fulfilling the requirements of more than one specialty or subspecialty.

CERTIFICATION

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

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

Physicians certified in MedTox are not required to maintain their Emergency Medicine certification, but are required to participate in the MedTox continuing certification process in order to renew their certification beyond ten years.

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