



Policy on Emergency Medicine Resident Transfer

BACKGROUND

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) has established a policy for Emergency Medicine (EM) residents transferring between various types of EM programs for purposes of determining the prior training that ABEM will recognize toward the resident's eligibility to apply for certification in Emergency Medicine.

This policy addresses the following types of resident transfers:

1. Between Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited EM categorical programs of the same format
2. Between ACGME-accredited, EM categorical programs of different formats
3. From an American Osteopathic Association (AOA)-approved EM program to an ACGME-accredited EM program
4. From an ABEM-approved, combined program to an ACGME-accredited, EM categorical program
5. From an ACGME-accredited EM categorical program to an ABEM-approved, combined program
6. Between ABEM-approved combined programs

POLICY

ABEM will review requests from ACGME-accredited EM categorical residency training program directors who wish to accept a resident into their training program from another ACGME-accredited EM residency program or from an AOA-approved, EM residency program. These transfers do not require ABEM approval; however, ABEM is available to discuss potential transfers with program directors. Program directors should notify ABEM when they accept a transferring resident.

ABEM must pre-approve all resident transfers that involve training in an ABEM-approved, combined training program.

ABEM must be able to independently verify all EM residency training successfully completed for that training to be recognized to fulfill the eligibility criteria for ABEM certification.

ACGME-International (ACGME-I)-accredited residency training cannot be used to fulfill the eligibility criteria for ABEM certification.

TYPES OF RESIDENT TRANSFERS

1. **Between ACGME-accredited, EM programs of the same format**

(Example: transfer from a PGY 1-3 program to a PGY 1-3 program)

These transfers do not require ABEM pre-approval; however, ABEM is available to review and discuss potential transfers. ABEM should always be notified when the transfer has occurred.

2. Between ACGME-accredited, EM programs of different formats

ABEM should be consulted prior to the resident's transfer to ensure that equivalent credit given for previously completed training will meet ABEM's eligibility criteria. Although these transfers do not require ABEM pre-approval, ABEM should always be notified when the transfer has occurred.

For purposes of administratively evaluating resident transfers between ACGME-accredited, EM categorical programs of different formats, the first three years of training in an ACGME-accredited, EM categorical residency training program are identified as EM levels 1-2-3. The fourth year of a PGY 1-4 program is identified as EM level 4.

- *From a PGY 1-4 Program to a PGY 1-3 Program:* The first three years of training in a PGY 1-4 program can count toward the requirements of a PGY 1-3 program. Program directors may choose to offer less credit than the amount of training the transferring resident completed prior to transferring.
- *From a PGY 1-3 to a PGY 1-4 Program:* All training in an ACGME-accredited PGY 1-3 program can count toward the requirements of an ACGME-accredited PGY 1-4 program. Program directors may choose to offer less credit than the amount of training the transferring resident completed prior to transferring.

3. From an AOA-approved EM program to an ACGME-accredited EM program

Partial credit is awarded at the discretion of the program director of the ACGME-accredited EM program. These transfers do not require ABEM pre-approval; however, ABEM can be consulted prior to the resident's transfer to ensure that credit given for previously completed training will meet ABEM's eligibility criteria. ABEM should always be notified when the transfer has occurred.

Credit may be awarded as follows:

- No credit can be allowed for less than 12 months of successfully completed, AOA-approved EM training.
- Up to six months of credit can be allowed for at least 12 months of successfully completed, AOA-approved EM training.
- Up to 12 months of credit can be allowed for at least 24 months of successfully completed, AOA-approved EM training.

The maximum amount of credit that can be awarded a transferring resident is 12 months, regardless of whether it is granted under this policy, the Policy on Equivalent Credit for Training in Other Specialties, or both.

4. From an ABEM-approved, combined program to an ACGME-accredited, EM categorical program

(Example: transfer from an ABEM-approved combined EM/IM program to an ACGME-accredited EM categorical program)

ABEM must pre-approve combined-to-categorical residency training program transfers to determine which rotations completed in the EM combined program can count toward the total training requirements of the EM categorical program. The request to ABEM must be submitted and approved in writing prior to transferring the resident.

The guidelines for each type of combined residency training program specify the approval process for transfers; the guidelines are available from ABEM.

5. From an ACGME-accredited, EM categorical program to an ABEM-approved, combined program

(Example: transfer from an ACGME-accredited EM program to a combined EM/Peds program)

ABEM must pre-approve all transfers between ACGME-accredited EM categorical programs and ABEM-approved combined programs to determine which rotations completed in the EM categorical program can count toward the

total training requirements of the EM combined program. The request to ABEM must be submitted and approved in writing prior to transferring the resident. These types of transfers must also be pre-approved by the other Board responsible for the combined program.

Transfers will only be considered after the PGY 1 year is successfully completed. The guidelines for each type of combined residency training program specify the approval process for transfers; the guidelines are available from ABEM.

6. Between ABEM-approved, combined programs

(Examples: transfer from an EM/FM program in one institution to an EM/FM program in another institution, or from an EM/IM program to an EM/IM/CCM program in the same institution)

ABEM must pre-approve all transfers between ABEM-approved, combined residency training programs. These types of transfers must also be approved by the other board responsible for the combined program. The guidelines for each type of combined residency training program specify the approval process for transfers; the guidelines are available from ABEM.

Other

Program directors seeking to transfer residents from an ACGME-accredited, non-EM categorical residency training program to an ACGME-accredited, EM categorical program should reference the ABEM Policy on Credit for Training in Other Specialties. It defines the ACGME-accredited residency training for which credit can be granted, the amount of credit allowable, and the process for programs to request credit.

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