

AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE (ABEM)

ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICINE ULTRASONOGRAPHY (AEMUS) FOCUSED PRACTICE DESIGNATION (FPD) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The purpose of the Focused Practice Designation (FPD) in Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography (AEMUS) is to recognize expertise held by physicians with sophisticated, comprehensive knowledge of AEMUS. Residency-trained physicians have acquired basic expertise applying point-of-care ultrasound, whereas those physicians who specialize in AEMUS have acquired a greater breadth and depth of knowledge that is distinct from other physicians.

The FPD in AEMUS is available to diplomates of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) and the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) who meet the eligibility criteria established by ABEM.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The general criteria for physicians seeking FPD in AEMUS are as follows:

- The physician must be certified by ABEM or ABIM.
- The physician must be meeting the continuing certification requirements of their primary board 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 Training Pathway, Training-plus-Practice Pathway, or the Practice-Only Pathway.

APPLICATION PATHWAYS

There are three application pathways for recognition in AEMUS: a practice pathway, a practice-plus-training pathway, and a training pathway. **The AEMUS practice pathway and practice-plus-training pathway will close on December 31, 2026. Specifically, all eligibility requirements must be completed, and all applications received no later than December 31, 2026.**

Training Pathway

The Training Pathway requires that physicians successfully complete an EUFAC-accredited AEMUS fellowship that is a minimum of one year. For physicians who apply through the Training Pathway, ABEM will seek independent verification of the physician's successful completion of the AEMUS fellowship program from the fellowship program director.

The physician must successfully complete the fellowship training program by the date of the examination in the year in which they submit the application.

Training-Plus-Practice Pathway

The Training-Plus-Practice Pathway will end on December 31, 2026. To apply for FPD through the Training-Plus-Practice Pathway, a physician must meet all of the following criteria:

- The physician must successfully complete an acceptable fellowship of at least one year in AEMUS.
- Demonstrate that within the five years (60 months) immediately preceding the date on which they submit their AEMUS application, they have practiced AEMUS for at least 24 months. The 24 months do not need to be continuous.
- During the 24 months of AEMUS practice, physicians must have performed or overseen/supervised an average of 300 AEMUS studies per year.
- During the 24 months of AEMUS practice, physicians must have reviewed, for quality purposes, an average of 500 studies per year that have been performed by other physicians.

Practice-Only Pathway

The Practice-Only Pathway will end on December 31, 2026. To apply for FPD through the Practice-Only Pathway, a physician must meet all of the following criteria:

- They must demonstrate that within the five years (60 months) immediately preceding the date on which they submit their AEMUS application, they have practiced AEMUS for at least 36 months. The 36 months do not need to be continuous.
- During the 36 months of AEMUS practice, physicians must have performed or oversaw/supervised an average of 300 AEMUS studies per year.
- During the 36 months of AEMUS practice, physicians must have reviewed, for quality purposes, an average of 500 AEMUS studies per year that have been performed by other physicians.
- Eligible physicians will have extensive experiential knowledge that will be demonstrated by expertise in:
 - Imaging informatics specific to workflow management, review, and archival of AEMUS images
 - Picture Archival and Communication Systems (PACS) and other image and interpretation management solutions
 - Digital Communications in Medicine (DICOM) standards
 - AEMUS practices implementing appropriate quality assurance and quality improvement programs.
- They must meet the criteria in two of the three areas listed below:
 1. Leadership-Administration
Hold or held one of the following positions for a minimum of one year: AEMUS fellowship director or assistant/associate director, whose AEMUS program has graduated at least three classes of fellows during their leadership tenure; or, hold or held a leadership position for a minimum of one year, such as an ultrasonography division or section chief, responsible for quality assurance, credentialing, or structured education of attending physicians, fellows, residents, medical students, mid-level providers, or nurses in the field of clinical ultrasonography.

2. Scholarly Publications and Products

Served as a first, second, or senior author on five or more peer-reviewed ultrasonography articles or ultrasonography book chapters (or a combination of five articles and book chapters) in a core ultrasound or core Emergency Medicine textbook (published abstracts do not count). For peer-reviewed articles, a PMID must be supplied for credit. Electronic or web-based publications are limited to the MedEd Portal and the Sonoguide™; other web-based publications and webpages do not count. The inclusion of other electronic publications might be considered as peer review standards evolve.

3. Teaching

Presented at least five ultrasonography lectures at a minimum of three different regionally-, nationally-, or internationally-based conferences. Or, presented at least five ultrasonography lectures outside of their department or institution, for which participants can receive CME credit. External proof (e.g., program schedules or brochures) is required to meet this criterion.

For physicians who practice in non-academic settings, teaching a minimum of 10 hours (as verified by the department chair or similar person) of structured professional development lectures or workshops for medical colleagues will be considered. Time spent instructing during a clinical shift cannot be included in this definition.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

Physicians seeking certification or an FPD in more than one subspecialty or focused practice may not apply the same fellowship training period toward fulfillment of requirements of more than one specialty, subspecialty, or focused practice designation.

EM or IM residency training cannot be used to satisfy eligibility requirements for an FPD in AEMUS; and, specifically, residency training cannot count for non-ACGME-accredited AEMUS fellowship training.

Focused Practice Designation

Physicians who have met the AEMUS eligibility criteria and who pass the AEMUS examination are recognized as earning the FPD in AEMUS. Designation is for a period of five years.

The designation will be dated from the date of the examination results letter and expire on December 31, five years thereafter. The physician's active primary or subspecialty certificate issued by their primary Board, either ABEM or ABIM, must remain valid for the FPD to remain valid.

Please note that any ABIM lifetime certificate holders who achieve the AEMUS FPD will be required to maintain the continuing certification requirements for the AEMUS FPD, as there is no lifetime status for AEMUS FPD.

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