



Single-Subspecialty Education in Dual-Subspecialty Programs Review Committee for Internal Medicine

- **Critical Care Medicine** education in **Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine** programs
- **Pulmonary Disease** education in **Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine** programs
- **Hematology** education in **Hematology and Medical Oncology** programs
- **Medical Oncology** education in **Hematology and Medical Oncology** programs

A physician who seeks certification in a subspecialty by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) can meet eligibility requirements in part through successful completion of an ACGME-accredited program in that subspecialty.

Likewise, a physician who seeks dual-subspecialty certification by the ABIM in both pulmonary disease and critical care medicine can meet eligibility requirements in part through successful completion of an ACGME-accredited pulmonary disease and critical care medicine program, and a physician who seeks dual-subspecialty certification by the ABIM in both hematology and medical oncology can meet eligibility requirements in part through successful completion of an ACGME-accredited hematology and medical oncology program.

Question:

Can a physician complete a single-subspecialty fellowship in an ACGME-accredited dual-specialty program and be eligible for ABIM certification in that single subspecialty?

Answer:

Yes. The Review Committee for Internal Medicine acknowledges that a dual-specialty program has the resources necessary to offer a fellowship in either of the separate specialties, and allows programs to offer such a position as circumstances arise. The ABIM, in turn, will recognize that single-specialty education.

The program is required to:

1. design a curriculum for that single subspecialty per the Program Requirements for that subspecialty
2. obtain approval from the core internal medicine program
3. obtain approval from the designated institutional official of the program's sponsoring institution
4. maintain a fellow complement within the total approved by the Review Committee

To accommodate, for example, a physician who wishes to pursue certification in critical care medicine—but not in pulmonary disease—the Review Committee permits an accredited pulmonary disease and critical care medicine program to accept a stand-alone critical care medicine fellow, and the ABIM will recognize that fellow's critical care medicine education. Note that the minimum time for critical care medicine fellowship education is maintained such that the fellow must complete either two years of fellowship in critical care medicine, including 12 months of full-time clinical training (ABIM Pathway B), or one year of clinical fellowship training in critical care medicine following completion of a two-to-three-year accredited fellowship in another internal medicine subspecialty (ABIM Pathway A).

Upon successful completion by the fellow of a single-specialty fellowship within a dual-specialty program, the status of that fellow should be changed to "Completed All Accredited Training (for this specialty) – successfully promoted" in the ACGME's Accreditation Data System (ADS).

Contact Review Committee staff with questions about accreditation, and ABIM staff with questions about certification.