



UNDERSEA AND HYPERBARIC MEDICINE SUBSPECIALTY ANNOUNCEMENT

Closure Date of Time-Limited Pathways of Application Extended

When the *Eligibility Criteria for Certification in Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine* were approved, the expectation was that Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education- (ACGME) accredited training programs would be in place by 2002. The development of the program training requirements took considerably longer than was anticipated, and the training requirements were not approved by the ACGME until February 2002. Presently, there are only a few training programs that have completed the ACGME-accreditation process.

The UHM training plus practice pathway closed following the 2005 application cycle and the unaccredited fellowship training pathway was scheduled to close following the 2007 application cycle. With few ACGME-accredited training programs in place this meant that physicians wishing to pursue this subspecialty and obtain certification had limited opportunities to do so.

To remedy this situation, the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) and American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) requested that the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approve an extension of the Training plus Practice application pathway and the unaccredited fellowship training application pathway until July 1, 2010. ABMS approved this request on March 20, 2007. It is effective immediately.

These extensions of the Training plus Practice pathway and the Unaccredited Fellowship Training pathway will allow those physicians who are currently training and practicing in the subspecialty to continue to obtain certification while fellowships are being created and accredited by the ACGME.

The Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine subspecialty is co-sponsored by ABPM and ABEM. Physicians must submit an application to the Board through which they obtained their primary certification. Physicians certified by an ABMS member board other than ABEM who fulfill the eligibility criteria must apply to ABPM.

Application materials for the 2007 examination are available now and will be accepted with a postmark date no later than July 1, 2007. Application materials are available at the ABPM website www.abprevmed.org/publications.cfm ABEM diplomates should contact the ABEM office to receive an application.