

## **Medical Education Policy:** Primary Specialty Board Certification Examination

Facility: CMC  
Origin Date: March 2019  
Revision Date:  
Sponsor: GMEC

---

### 1. PURPOSE:

Participants in fellowships that are greater than twelve months in length must pass their primary specialty board certification requirement to continue training in their sub-specialty. It is not possible to be boarded in a sub-specialty without first boarding in the primary specialty. Fellows must take and pass the board certification exam for their primary specialty within the first 16 months of fellowship training to be allowed to continue their training in a fellowship program.

### 2. SCOPE:

This policy applies to all fellows in categorical ACGME accredited post-graduate fellowship training programs sponsored by Carilion Medical Center with a duration of greater than one year. Therefore this policy primarily applies to fellowships sponsored by Internal Medicine (IM).

### 3. DEFINITIONS:

**Primary board certification** is the successful completion of the requirements designated by a given specialty to achieve initial endorsement by the specialty's board. The American Board of Medical Specialties designates the bodies responsible for the administration and monitoring of certification. The certifying exam for IM is given annually on multiple different days in August. The results of the exam are available in October of each year.

### 4. PROCEDURE:

All Fellows in ACGME accredited GME programs will be subject to the following:

1. Fellows are notified of the requirement for primary board certification as stated in their contract.
2. Fellows must take the board examination corresponding to their primary specialty during the first year of fellowship training.
3. Fellows **MUST** pass the requirements for their primary specialty board certification within the first 16 months of their program.

4. Fellows who do not pass the certification exam during their first year of training must meet with their Program Director (PD). At this meeting, the PD will review this policy and provide the fellow a copy of the policy.
5. Fellows who do not pass the exam on their first attempt may be issued a contract for their second year of training. However this contract will end on or about November 1 of the second year. This will allow the fellow sufficient time to take the examination a second time and to have received the scores for this exam.
6. Failure to successfully pass the requirements for primary board certification within their first 16 months of training will result in non-renewal of contract (see Discipline – Nonrenewal of Contract policy).
7. If the fellow passes the exam taken during their second year of fellowship, they will be issued a new contract with a new end date reflecting completion of their second year. For on-cycle fellows this will be June 30 of their second year.

---

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dept./Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>
Donald Kees, MD	DIO	GMEC	March 19, 2019