



THE AMERICAN BOARD *of* PEDIATRICS

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Dena Hofkosh, MD
President, APPD
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
4401 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Dear Dr. Hofkosh:

As you are aware The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) received an application for subspecialty certification in pediatric hospital medicine submitted on behalf of the Joint Council of Pediatric Hospital Medicine in August 2014. The Joint Council is sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Academic Pediatric Association, and the Society of Hospital Medicine.

The ABP has developed a set of guidelines for establishing a certification process for a new subspecialty, the most important of which is that children will be well served. A new subspecialty must be able to document a distinct body of knowledge, sufficient numbers of physicians concentrating their practice in the area, and existing national societies and training programs. The role of the new subspecialist is to teach, provide consultation, provide complex care, and create new knowledge.

The ABP has completed a careful and deliberate process of review over the last year and recently voted its approval to move forward with subspecialty certification in pediatric hospital medicine. The Board approved the petitioner's proposal for two years of fellowship incorporating scholarly activity within a competency-based framework of assessment. There will be no requirement to maintain the underlying certificate in general pediatrics in order to maintain certification in pediatric hospital medicine.

The next step in the process is to move forward with a petition from the ABP to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) which must grant its approval as well. If ABMS grants its approval, the ABP will seek accreditation of training programs by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

We wish thank you and the members of your organization for providing such thoughtful feedback during this process. The pros and cons and the potential unintended consequences of certification were carefully weighed by the Board. On balance, the Board felt the ABP guidelines for establishing a new subspecialty were met and that children would be well served by this certification process. We hope to submit a manuscript for publication in the near future that will outline the Board's review of the petition and its decision making process, recognizing the importance of this certification as it relates to the identity, role and scope of practice of the general pediatrician.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Gail A. McGuinness, MD
Executive Vice President

cc: David G. Nichols, MD, MBA
President, CEO

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