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July 21, 2021

Lynne Tanoue, MD
Chair, Pulmonary Disease Board

Laura Evans, MD
Chair, Critical Care Medicine Board

American Board of Internal Medicine
510 Walnut Street
Suite 1700
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Drs. Tanoue and Evans,

The Association of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Program Directors (APCCMPD), represents 96% of all Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited Pulmonary, Internal-Medicine Critical Care (CCM), and Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (PCCM) Fellowship Programs. On behalf of our membership, we request that the placement of pulmonary artery balloon flotation catheters (PAC) be removed from the list of Training and Procedural Requirements in the Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine Polices.

In recent years, the use of PAC has significantly declined¹ becoming a small niche procedure, largely performed in catheterization labs rather than in intensive care units. As a result, many fellowship programs have difficulty offering the opportunity to teach and provide the experience of PAC placement to trainees. At the same time, there is the need to teach and provide experience in newer procedures such as Endobronchial Ultrasound and Point of Care Ultrasound. Furthermore, trainees are arriving to Pulmonary, CCM, and PCCM Fellowships with less experience in procedures such as central line placement and thoracentesis, necessitating added training during fellowship.

More importantly, fellowship programs have difficulty certifying trainees' competency in a procedure that is no longer an ACGME training program certification requirement. The 2020 ACGME Common Program Requirements for Pulmonary, CCM, and PCCM Medicine, revised the insertion of PAC as a requirement. The revised requirement states: "*IV.B.1.c).(3) Fellows must demonstrate knowledge of the indications, contraindications, and complications of placement of arterial, central venous, and pulmonary artery balloon flotation catheters. (Core)*"^{2, 3, 4}. The requirement for facility in actual placement has been removed.

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The request to have the ABIM similarly remove the placement of PAC catheters from their requirements has been affirmed by our membership. In May of 2021, a portion of our membership was polled regarding the removal of placement of PACs as an ABIM requirement. 75% of those polled favored removing the procedure as a requirement.

Given the changing landscape of our field and changes in our ACGME requirements we ask you to consider removing the requirement for PAC placement from the ABIM requirements as well. Thank you for the opportunity to work collaboratively with the ABIM to ensure that our trainees' certification requirement change synchronously with our practice and our programs' certification requirements.

Sincerely,



Maryl Kreider, MD, MA
President
APCCMPD

1. Teboul, J.L., Cecconi, M. & Scheeren, T.W.L. Is there still a place for the Swan–Ganz catheter? No. *Intensive Care Med* 44, 957–959 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-018-5110-3>
2. ACGME. (2020). ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Critical Care Medicine. ACGME, 24 (2020).
3. ACGME. (2020). ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine. ACGME, 26 (2020).
4. ACGME. (2020). ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Pulmonary Disease. ACGME, 23 (2020).