



# THE AMERICAN BOARD *of* PEDIATRICS

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January 23, 2015

Allen Friedland, MD  
Chairperson, AAP Section on Med-Peds  
Jefferson Medical College  
Christiana Care Health Services  
Med-Peds Residency Program  
4755 Ogletown-Stanton Rd, Rm 4200  
Newark, DE 19718-0000

Dear Dr. Friedland,

The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) has received an application for subspecialty certification in pediatric hospital medicine submitted on behalf of the Joint Council of Pediatric Hospital Medicine. The Joint Council is sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Academic Pediatric Association, and the Society of Hospital Medicine. As their discipline has matured, the community of pediatric hospitalists, under the leadership of the Joint Council and as part of a strategic planning process, has built consensus to move forward with a request for subspecialty certification by the ABP.

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 better 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 begun a careful and deliberate process of review recognizing the importance of this decision as it relates to the identity, role, and scope of practice of the general pediatrician. Thus, we are reaching out to organizations and stakeholders to seek feedback.

The application proposes that, after a period of time that allows for a practice pathway and non-accredited training, certification will require two years of accredited training in a pediatric hospital medicine fellowship including a requirement for scholarly activity. If the application were to be approved by the ABP, approval will be sought from the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) as well as accreditation of training programs by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

We invite comments from the leadership of your organization or from individual members who may wish to provide feedback. Should you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me. We anticipate further deliberation by the ABP beginning in the spring of 2015. Thus, we look forward to receiving any comments by March 31, 2015.

Sincerely,

Gail A. McGuinness, MD  
Executive Vice President

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

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