



ACMT

American College
of Medical Toxicology

Hospital Privileges for Physicians Practicing Medical Toxicology

Revised 2017

Introduction

In September, 1992, Medical Toxicology was accepted by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) as the Medical Toxicology Subboard of three primary boards: the American Board of Emergency Medicine, the American Board of Preventive Medicine, and the American Board of Pediatrics. The American Osteopathic Association has also developed a subspecialty examination for Medical Toxicology. Prior to this the American Board of Medical Toxicology (ABMT), a stand-alone certifying body, provided certification. ABMT ceased function upon transition to the Subboard. Currently, there are several hundred physicians certified by the Medical Toxicology Subboard in this specialty and many fewer still holding only ABMT certification. Poisonings, intoxications, overdoses, adverse drug events, and environmental toxicity are prevalent and persistent threats to the health of individuals and the public. Given the need for subject matter experts in the care of the poisoned patient, particularly in the areas of consultative, emergency, environmental, and occupational toxicology, it is appropriate that ACMT develop standards by which credentialing bodies (eg hospitals) can assess qualifications of medical toxicologists.

Credentials

1. Prior certification in a primary specialty is required. These specialties typically include Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, or Preventive (Occupational) Medicine, but any clinical specialty could serve as the basis for advanced training and certification.
2. Maintenance of active medical license in good standing in the state of practice.
3. One of the following:
 - a. Certification by the ABMS Subboard of Medical Toxicology
 - b. Certification by the analogous Medical Toxicology Board of the American Osteopathic Association.
 - c. Certification by the American Board of Medical Toxicology (ABMT) prior to 1994
 - d. Completion of an accredited two-year medical toxicology fellowship, and considered "board eligible" by ABMS.

Privileges

The credentials specified above should be required for a physician to be eligible for admitting and/or consultative privileges in Medical Toxicology for adult and pediatric inpatient or outpatient services. Services include the provision of medical care and conducting independent medical examinations.

Scope of Practice

Medical Toxicology is a medical subspecialty focusing on the diagnosis, management, prevention, and treatment of poisoning and other adverse health effects due to medications, occupational and environmental toxins, and biological toxins. Medical Toxicology is officially recognized as a medical subspecialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties. Several areas of Medical Toxicologist expertise include:

1. Overdoses of Pharmaceuticals
2. Unintentional and intentional intoxications
3. Substance abuse and misuse (including substance withdrawal)
4. Adverse drug events
5. Hazardous exposure to chemical products
6. Envenomations
7. Exposure to natural toxins
8. Exposure to radiation
9. Forensic interpretation
10. Laboratory analysis Compliance with Ethical Standards

Disclaimer

While individual practitioners may differ, this is the position of the American College of Medical Toxicology at the time writing, after a review of the issue and pertinent literature.