

## **Selecting a Physician**

Specialty certification by a Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is one important credential to consider when selecting a physician. The fact that a physician has been certified by one of the 24 ABMS approved medical specialty certifying boards verifies that the individual has had the appropriate training and possesses the skills and knowledge necessary to care for patients in a given area of medical practice.

In addition to verifying the fact that an ABMS Member Board has certified a physician, the prospective patient should

- seek recommendations from his/her own primary physician(s)
- ask family and friends for opinions of physicians they have seen
- talk to the physician or his/her staff members to determine experience with the needed treatments or procedures
- call the hospital, ambulatory care center or your healthcare organization to determine that your physician of choice has “privileges” or is on their panel of physicians.

### **To Verify Certification**

The American Board of Medical Specialties

toll-free telephone verification of certification: 866-ASK-ABMS (275-2267)

WEBSITE: [www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org); “Who’s Certified” button (search by physician name or by specialty)