



# AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL SPECIALTIES®

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## NEW WEB SERVICE FROM ABMS PROVIDES DIRECT ACCESS TO SPECIALTY BOARD CERTIFICATION INFORMATION FOR EMERGENCY CREDENTIALING

**EVANSTON, IL – December 14, 2005**– The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS®), an organization dedicated to establishing higher standards for safe, quality care by physician specialists has launched ABMS Direct Connect *Select™*, a new XML web service that allows credentialing professionals and emergency certification personnel to conduct electronic Primary Source Verification of physician specialty certification in the ABMS database through authorized credentialing systems.

“Quick, efficient access to primary source physician certification information is essential to emergency response teams who must verify the credentials of the many physicians that volunteer after a natural disaster or other major health event,” explained Rob Nelson, ABMS Director of Business Development. “The initial roll-out of the ABMS Direct Connect *Select* service, which was launched one month before the first of the Gulf coast hurricanes, was part of a state-based initiative to develop an emergency credentialing system. It was then engaged by the Department of Health and Human Services to support emergency verification of volunteers as part of the hurricane disaster relief efforts.”

Using the emergency credentialing system established by *CredentialSmart*, a leading provider of Web-based communicative credentialing solutions and the inaugural subscriber to ABMS Direct Connect *Select*, the Department of Health and Human Services was able to quickly access the necessary credentialing information for verifying physician volunteers. The service is now being incorporated into the State of Wisconsin’s Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP).

The ABMS database contains board certification information, including certification effective and expiration dates and all historical information of board certifications, on the more than 700,000 physicians certified by one or more of ABMS’ 24 Member Boards. ABMS is recognized by the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organization (JCAHO), the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), URAC and other healthcare accrediting organizations as primary source equivalent for verifying physicians’ professional credentials.

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The ABMS Direct Connect *Select* service is designed to be conformant to the MedBiquitous Healthcare Professional Profile, which provides a common format for exchanging data about healthcare professionals. MedBiquitous is the ANSI-accredited developer of information technology standards for the healthcare education and competence assessment. These standards are also followed by ABMS Member Boards when sending certification data to ABMS. “By utilizing the MedBiquitous web service and XML standards, we were able to significantly cut our development time on ABMS Direct Connect *Select*,” explained Todd Tischendorf, ABMS Director of Information Services and Systems Development. “This allowed us to respond with a production product quickly and, most importantly; it was available and fully functional when it was needed.”

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### **About American Board of Medical Specialties**

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is the preeminent medical association overseeing physician certification in the United States. For more than 70 years, the ABMS has assisted its 24 Member Boards in their efforts to develop and implement educational and professional standards for the evaluation and certification of physician specialists. Member Boards provide physician certification information to the ABMS for its certification verification service programs. ABMS is recognized by the key healthcare credentialing accreditation entities as a primary equivalent source of board certification data for medical specialists. For more information, please visit [www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org).