ASPIRUS, INC. JOINS ABMS MULTI-SPECIALTY PORTFOLIO PROGRAM

Program Offers Participating Physicians an Opportunity to Maintain Board Certification and Improve Patient Health and Safety

CHICAGO – May 13, 2019 – The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) announced that Aspirus, Inc. has joined ABMS’ Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program™ (Portfolio Program). Physicians who are board certified by one or more of the 18 of 24 ABMS Member Boards participating in the Portfolio Program can now earn Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Improvement in Medical Practice (Part IV) credit for their involvement in one of four Aspirus quality improvement (QI) activities.

As part of the Portfolio Program, Aspirus may now offer its medical staff members the opportunity to satisfy their continuing certification program needs, while helping to improve patient health and safety throughout rural areas in north central Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

“Participating in the ABMS Portfolio Program is an excellent way to support our physicians’ continuing certification efforts, while also aligning their work with important quality improvement initiatives that directly impact patient care,” said Michael McGrail, System Chief Medical Officer for Aspirus, Inc. “We are pleased to join forces with the Portfolio Program and be part of our medical staff’s dedication to improving the care delivered to their patients, families, and communities we as a system serve.”

Aspirus is focused on providing quality, evidence-based continuing medical education (CME) that integrates with and supports its performance improvement and patient safety initiatives throughout its system. Oversight and implementation of the Portfolio Program activities will reside in the Aspirus CME/Continuing Professional Development/MOC Office. Portfolio Program activities will center around the following process improvement activities:
• Advance care planning
• Burnout and resiliency
• Cervical cancer screening
• Sepsis

“Aspirus has a long-standing commitment to the continuing professional development of its nearly 600 board certified physicians,” stated David W. Price, MD, FAAFP, FACEHP, FSACME, Executive Director of the Portfolio Program. “Our relationship will enable Aspirus to facilitate continuing certification credit for their physicians who engage in activities aimed at improving patient safety and care throughout their service area.”

To date, the ABMS Portfolio Program has helped engage physicians in QI and practice improvement initiatives at hospitals and health systems across the country, with many showing improvement in care outcomes. Since its inception, more than 3,100 improvement efforts have been completed by Portfolio Program participants.

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**About ABMS**
Established in 1933, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is the leading not-for-profit organization overseeing physician certification in the United States. ABMS establishes the standards its 24 Member Boards use to develop and implement educational and professional evaluation, assessment, and certification of physician specialists, helping to improve the quality of care to the patients, families and communities we serve. More than 880,000 physicians are certified in one or more of the approved 40 specialties and 87 subspecialties offered by the ABMS Member Boards. For more information about ABMS, visit [abms.org](http://abms.org) or call (312) 436-2600.

**About Aspirus, Inc.**
Aspirus is a non-profit, community-directed health system based in Wausau, Wisconsin. Its 7,700 employees are focused on improving the health and well-being of people throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Aspirus serves communities through four hospitals in Michigan and four hospitals in Wisconsin, 50 clinics, home health and hospice care, pharmacies, critical care and air-medical transport, medical goods, nursing homes and a broad network of physicians. Aspirus was recognized in 2018 and 2019 by IBM Watson Health as a Top 15 Health System in its annual study identifying the top-performing health systems in the country. For more information, visit [www.aspirus.org](http://www.aspirus.org)