

Richard Hawkins, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Board of Medical Specialties
353 North Clark Street, Suite 1400
Chicago, IL 60654

Re: ABPS and ABOHNS' request to become Qualifying Boards for ABD's
Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS) Subspecialty Certification

Dear Dr. Hawkins,

The ABPS and the ABOHNS would like to provide an update regarding our discussions with ABD about options for Diplomates of ABPS and ABOHNS to become eligible for the Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS) Sub-specialty Certificate through the Qualifying Board pathway. Together the three Boards have further defined the criteria for Diplomates of ABPS and ABOHNS to become eligible for the Sub-certificate in (MDS). The criteria are different for the 5-year Practice Pathway period and the time after the Practice Pathway is closed, so both are presented.

Qualifying Board Diplomat requirements DURING the Practice Pathway (5 years):

- a. Certified in good standing and up-to-date in Continuous Certification/MOC (if have a time-limited certificate) from ABOHNS and ABPS.
- b. Successful completion of a one-year fellowship approved by the *American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS)* or *Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)*.
- c. Pass the MDS Sub-certificate examination.
- d. Pass an examination in Relevant Clinical Dermatology/Dermato-pathology. *Working Title:* "Dermatologic Surgery Clinical-Pathologic Correlation" or DSCPC
 - i. Use criterion-based passing standard (fixed standard)

Qualifying Board Diplomat requirements AFTER the Practice Pathway:

- a. Certified in good standing from ABOHNS and ABPS.
- b. Successful completion of a one-year fellowship accredited by the *ACGME*.
- c. Pass the MDS Sub-certificate examination.
- d. Pass an examination in Relevant Clinical Dermatology/Dermato-pathology. *Working Title:* "Dermatologic Surgery Clinical-Pathologic Correlation" or DSCPC
 - i. Use criterion-based passing standard (fixed standard)

The Dermatologic Surgery Clinical-Pathologic Correlation Exam is an additional module to the MDS Sub-certificate exam that will test the Qualifying Board (QB) Diplomat's knowledge of relevant Clinical Dermatology and Dermatopathology. This exam will assess knowledge in these areas that is not assessed on the initial certifying exams for ABPS and ABOHNS and also not assessed on the MDS subcertification exam but assessed on the initial certifying exam for dermatology and essential foundational knowledge for a practicing MDS surgeon. The QB Diplomat will only have to take this additional module at the time of the initial certification in MDS. ABPS and ABOHNS will have an opportunity to participate in the development of the blueprint for the DSCPC module.

After initial certification in the MDS Sub-certificate, Diplomates with non-time-limited primary certificates will need to participate in a Continuous Certification program relating to the MDS sub-certificate but participation in the Continuous Certification program for their primary certificate will be voluntary. Diplomates with time-limited primary certificates will need to participate in the Continuous Certification program of both their primary Certificate and the MDS Sub-certificate. The ABOHNS, ABPS, and ABD will work with each other to establish areas for reciprocity in continuing certification requirements.

ABPS and ABOHNS understand that ABMS will have a public comment period for this Qualifying Board application. Both Boards hope that this QB application update will serve to educate interested parties in the detailed process that the ABPS, ABOHNS and ABD have agreed upon. All three Boards feel this process will allow for diplomates of the ABPS and ABOHNS that are practicing MDS surgeons and have the requisite training background beyond their residencies in plastic surgery or otolaryngology-head and neck surgery to appropriately have the opportunity to get this additional recognition. This will allow for these physicians to demonstrate their commitment to quality care and lifelong learning. If any additional detail is needed then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Keith Brandt, MD in black ink.

Keith Brandt, MD
Executive Director
American Board of Plastic Surgery

Handwritten signature of Brian Nussenbaum, MD, MHCM in blue ink.

Brian Nussenbaum, MD, MHCM
Executive Director
American Board of Otolaryngology-
Head and Neck Surgery



AMERICAN BOARD OF
DERMATOLOGY

American Board of Dermatology

2 Wells Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Phone: 617.910.6400
Email: communications@abderm.org
Web: www.abderm.org

March 29, 2019

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Re: ABPS' and ABOHNS' request to become Qualifying Boards for ABD's
Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS) Subspecialty Certification

Dear Dr. Hawkins,

The American Board of Dermatology (ABD) has had an opportunity to review the request from the American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS) and the American Board of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHNS) to become Qualifying Boards for ABD's Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS) subspecialty examination as detailed in their letter dated March 29, 2019. We understand that as a qualifying board, ABPS and ABOHNS diplomates with proper credentials may become subspecialty certified in MDS as administered by ABD.

Training and certification in plastic surgery and otolaryngology, head neck surgery does not include sufficient experience in clinical dermatology and dermatopathology. To accommodate this prerequisite for MDS, ABD will require that their diplomates pass an examination prepared by ABD in clinical dermatology and dermatopathology. All other requirements for MDS certification by diplomates of ABPS and ABOHNS will be the same as those of ABD.

The ABD appreciates the cooperative, professional way diplomates from ABPS and ABOHNS work with our diplomates to manage the ever growing epidemic of skin cancer in this country and around the world. It is in this spirit of cooperation that ABD endorses the request from ABPS and ABOHNS to become qualifying boards of MDS.

Thomas Horn, M.D., M.B.A.
Executive Director
American Board of Dermatology

TDH:rkr

Cc: Mira Irons, M.D., COCERT

Randall K. Roenigk, M.D.
Assistant Executive Director
American Board of Dermatology

Executive Board

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Public Member