

**ABMS**

# AIMING HIGHER



A commitment to  
higher standards  
for better care



**American Board  
of Medical Specialties**

*Higher standards. Better care.®*

# Everyone deserves the BEST



BOARD CERTIFIED  
SPECIALISTS



SUBSPECIALTY  
AREAS



SPECIALTY  
AREAS



MEMBER  
BOARDS



# HEALTH CARE POSSIBLE

We believe that the best care is provided by physician specialists who are board certified. ABMS is focused on improving the health of individuals, their families and communities by elevating the discipline of specialty medicine through board certification. Our credential offers verification of a physician's skills and expertise and their commitment to staying up to date in their specialty. It represents a physician's promise to the public for providing health care of the highest standard.

The process of ABMS board certification involves ongoing assessment to encourage continuous learning. It calls on physicians to demonstrate their knowledge, skill, and professionalism throughout their careers. Physicians committed to this process are respected by their colleagues and their patients for their service, integrity and leadership. They continually aim higher — always learning, researching and innovating to enhance the care they provide.

**1 GOAL:**  
BETTER  
PATIENT CARE



# The best care is built upon HIGHER

The best care is built on higher standards of practice, supporting physician specialists in striving for professional excellence. Our standards are developed by physicians to be specialty-specific, going beyond those required for state licensure. Physicians who take the extra step to become certified by an ABMS Member Board benefit from a recognized program to help them practice at the top of their profession.

Our community of Member Boards constantly evaluates the standards of specialty practice, comparing them to advances in technology and science, and changes in regulation and delivery systems—and adapts them accordingly. Based on those standards, our board certification process is rigorous, but is flexible enough to evolve and meet the needs of physicians' and their varied practices.



The higher standards of board certification help physicians maintain up-to-date knowledge, enhance quality clinical outcomes and promote patient safety. They are linked to better patient care in the most chronic medical conditions patients face today such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and opioid use.



# STANDARDS



Higher standards encourage

CONTINU  
LEAR



# OUS NING

Patients and their families place an extraordinary level of trust in their physician specialists. They expect a level of professional excellence concurrent with the advances in specialty medicine. The career-long process of ABMS board certification exemplifies that level of quality and trust. It challenges specialists to uphold the dignity and honor of their profession by integrating knowledge, skill, and ethical choices in ways that shape their professional lives and help them provide optimal patient care.

Higher standards encourage physicians to continue learning as long as they are working in the profession and serving the public. The board certification process fosters a community of learners through ongoing assessment and practical feedback. This approach helps physicians strategically pursue continuing education to refresh and retool their knowledge and skills to meet the latest advances in specialty medicine.

When choosing a physician, patients say that board certification matters. Surveys have shown that patients think board certified doctors demonstrate a higher level of expertise and provide a higher quality of care.

98%

of patients expect their physicians to stay up to date with advances in their specialty.

95%

of patients expect their physicians to participate in ongoing assessment and learning.



# Continuous learning drives

Physician specialists are intrinsically motivated to enhance the efficiency and efficacy of their practice. The higher standards of board certification reflect the spirit of quality improvement —inspiring creative thinking, modern ingenuity, healthy curiosity and a sincere desire to help every patient. Our assessment programs help physicians review their knowledge, identify areas for learning and connect with professional development resources. ABMS' work with a variety of health care organizations supports physicians in their daily work by connecting quality/safety goals and staff involvement with the aims of certification.





# ADVANCEMENTS IN CARE



Working toward  
the promise of

HIGHER STANDARDS,

# BETTER CARE

For almost 90 years, ABMS' purpose is one of public care and physician support. We are an enduring organization because we've never hesitated to be an evolutionary one. That's a powerful combination: the experience of an organization that has nurtured board certification for generations, and the ambition and energy of an innovative one with fresh opportunities.

We invite others who value the ABMS certification framework to work with us in connecting physician specialists with discipline-specific learning modules, patient safety programs, quality improvement activities, and other educational and practice-based initiatives to support their learning.

Looking ahead, our goal is to continue working toward the promise of higher standards and better care. In doing so, we are creating an environment of better-informed communities, highly competent specialists and quality health care. It's what is expected of a leader —and it is what will keep ABMS aiming higher.





Let's work together to  
**AIM HIGHER...**

[ABMS.org](http://ABMS.org)



## American Board of Medical Specialties

*Higher standards. Better care.®*

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### ABMS MEMBER BOARDS

American Board of Allergy and Immunology  
American Board of Anesthesiology  
American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery  
American Board of Dermatology  
American Board of Emergency Medicine  
American Board of Family Medicine  
American Board of Internal Medicine  
American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American Board of Neurological Surgery  
American Board of Nuclear Medicine  
American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
American Board of Ophthalmology

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American Board of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery  
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American Board of Pediatrics  
American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Board of Plastic Surgery  
American Board of Preventive Medicine  
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