

ABMS Member Board Certification

The recognized and trusted leader
by the public and profession

About Board Certification

Specialty certification is a critical component of our health care system because it helps to assure the clinical competence of the specialty physician workforce. Rigorous professional certification requires that an individual periodically pass an assessment of the knowledge and clinical judgment necessary to practice in the specialty. Most legitimate organizations that certify physicians not only require periodic assessments, but also maintain codes of professional conduct to protect patient safety and ensure the continued trustworthiness of the credential. It is imperative, now more than ever, to make informed decisions regarding physician certification if we are to preserve the high standards that the profession sets for itself.

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As the oldest and largest multi-specialty medicine certification organization, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) takes the responsibility and privilege of physician certification seriously.

ABMS is dedicated to protecting the integrity of the board certification credential, ensuring it is both relevant to and supportive of diplomates' learning and improvement needs while offering the public a reliable means of verifying that our diplomates continuously demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and professionalism to provide high-quality specialty care.

The 24 ABMS Member Boards offer rigorous Board Certification programs that:

Assess the initial and ongoing knowledge and clinical judgment of a physician needed to practice safely and effectively in a medical specialty.

Are created by physicians who also practice in the same specialty or subspecialty. More than 5,000 volunteer specialty physicians help develop programs, standards, and assessment items.

Exceed baseline requirements for a medical license in every state, assuring the public that diplomates have demonstrated the additional clinical skills and professional behavior to provide safe and high-quality specialty care.

Offer diplomates relevant, convenient, and evidence-based assessments that enhance learning and retention.

Expect certified physicians to demonstrate high standards of professional conduct in their interactions with patients, families, and all other health care professionals. ABMS Member Boards revoke certificates from physicians whose conduct puts patients at risk or undermines the trustworthiness of the credential.

Certify specialists following training and throughout their careers. ABMS Member Boards continuously verify a diplomate's certification.



American Board
of Medical Specialties

Higher standards. Better care.®