Evaluating Board Certification Programs

Not all Board Certification Programs are created equally...

A Certification Program is defined by the Institute of Credentialing Excellence as a "program designed to test the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform a particular job, and, upon successfully passing a certification exam, to represent a declaration of a particular individual’s professional competence."

*Diplomates have a choice to be certified and from whom they receive their certification and credentials. However, not all certification programs are created equally.

When evaluating physician certification programs be sure to ask:

- Does the program curate the knowledge, skills, and clinical judgment important to the practice of each medical specialty?
- Does the program include an initial and ongoing assessment to verify sufficient mastery of necessary knowledge and skills?
- Does the program involve physicians from each specialty in the development of standards and assessments?
- Does the program develop standards of professional conduct and revoke certificates when physicians breach those standards?
- Does the program reflect a higher standard of care than medical licensure alone?

*Institute of Credentialing Excellence, "What is Credentialing," www.credentialingexcellence.org/About

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