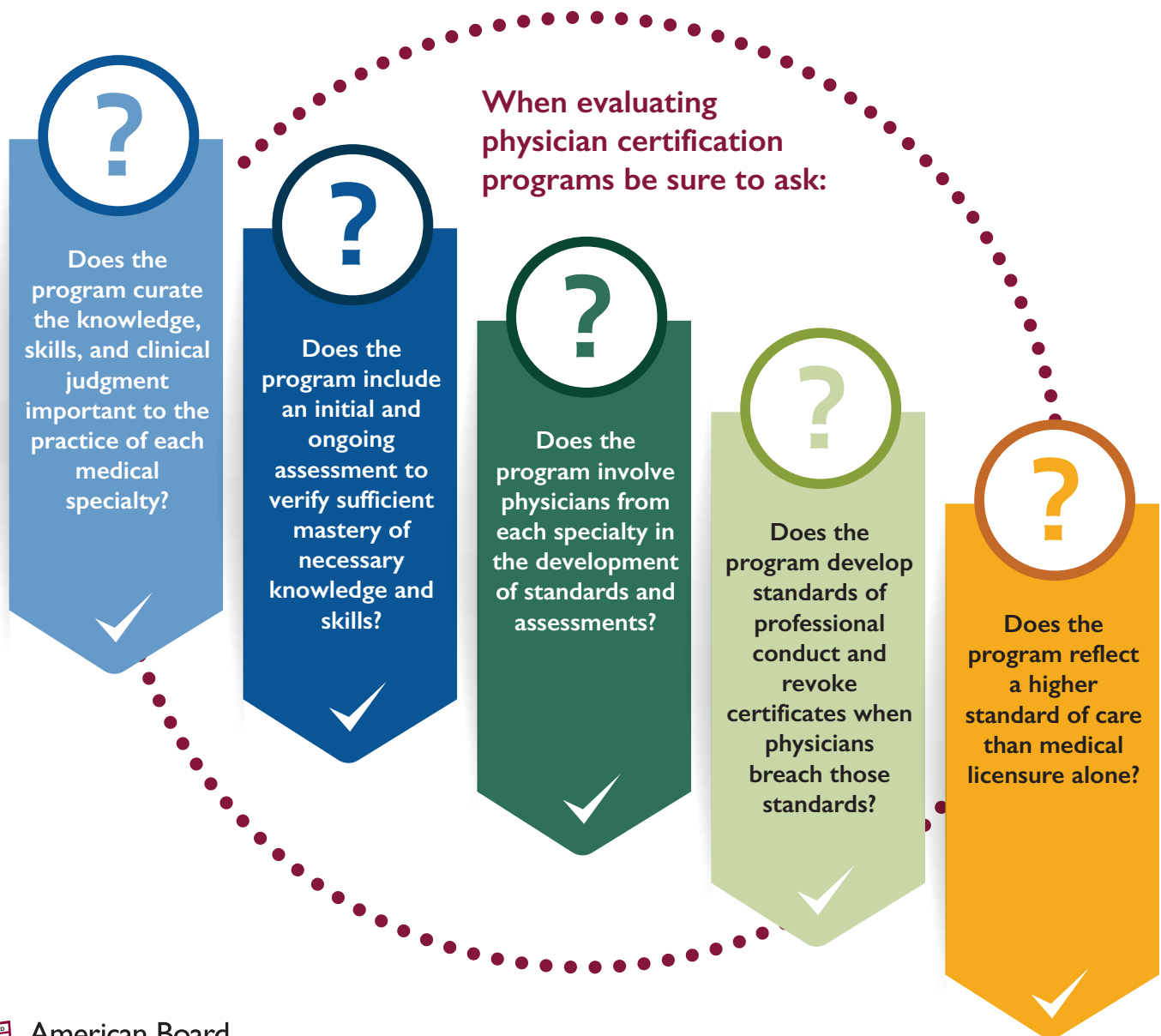


# Evaluating Board Certification Programs

## 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."<sup>1</sup> American Medical Association (AMA) policy states "that when the equivalency of board certification must be determined, the certification program must first meet accepted standards for certification that include both a) a process for defining specialty-specific standards for knowledge and skills and b) offer an independent, external assessment of knowledge and skills for both initial certification and recertification or continuous certification in the medical specialty."<sup>2</sup>

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



**American Board  
of Medical Specialties**

*Higher standards. Better care.®*

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Credentialing Excellence, "What is Credentialing," [www.credentialingexcellence.org/About](https://www.credentialingexcellence.org/About) (Accessed 3/14/2023)

<sup>2</sup> American Medical Association, 2022, "Medical Specialty Board Certification Standards H-275.926: Licensure and Discipline," <https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/certification?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-1904.xml>