

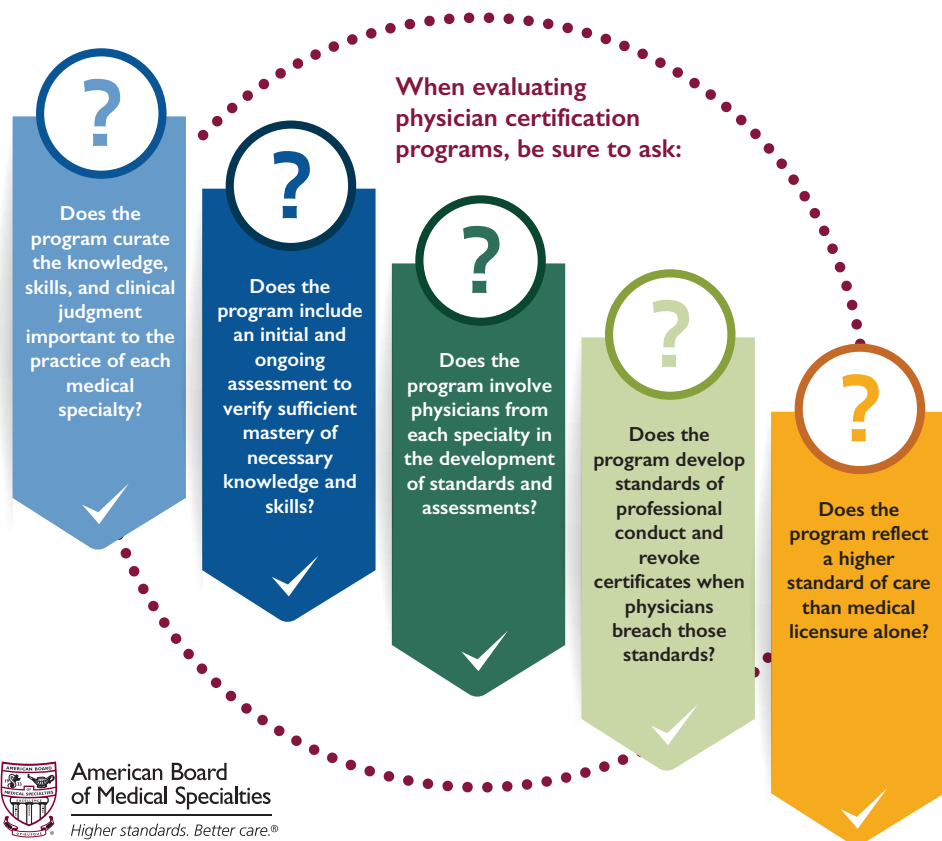
Evaluating Board Certification Programs

Not all board certification programs are created equally...

To ensure the integrity of physician credentialing organizations, health care leaders and policy makers are turning to the adoption of consistent professional standards and definitions of legitimate certification bodies. Adopting a common baseline definition of specialty certification ensures patients can trust in the integrity of the credential, avoids public confusion about differing credentials, and provides policy makers and health care organizations better guidance when assessing certification programs.

Adopting common language has already been embraced by state and federal governments. In 2024, Colorado included a definition of national board certification in its medical practice act for the first time. More significantly, the United States Congress adopted standards for recognizing certifying bodies to be applied to the 130,000+ person workforce of the Defense Health Agency (DHA).¹ In both cases, the legislative changes adopted were based on language previously developed by the medical profession and adopted by the American Medical Association² as well as the definition established by credentialing experts at the Institute for Credentialing Excellence.³

Physicians have a choice to be certified and from whom they receive their certification and credentials. However, not all certification programs meet the criteria defined in federal, state, and regulatory policies.



American Board
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¹ The Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, docs.house.gov/billssthisweek/20241209/RCP_HRS009_xml%5b5b89%5d.pdf.

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

³ Institute of Credentialing Excellence, "What is Credentialing," credentialingexcellence.org/About (Accessed 3/14/2023)