

ABMS Member Board Focused Practice Designation

The focused practice designation, approved by ABMS in March 2017, recognizes the value that physicians who focus some or all their practice within a specific area of a specialty and/or subspecialty can provide to improving health care. Focused practice designation enables the ABMS Member Boards to set standards for, assess, and acknowledge additional expertise that physicians gain through clinical experience, and may include formal training.

ABMS MEMBER BOARDS WITH APPROVED FOCUSED PRACTICE DESIGNATIONS				
American Board (1)	Area of Focused Practice	Active Certification Requirement	Year Approved by ABMS	First Issued
Emergency Medicine	Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography	Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine	2018	2022
Neurological Surgery	Central Nervous System Endovascular Surgery	Neurological Surgery	2017	2020
	Neurological Critical Care		2018	2021
	Pediatric Neurological Surgery		2017	2018
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery	Obstetrics and Gynecology	2019	2022
	Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology		2017	2018
Ophthalmology	Retina	Ophthalmology	2024	††
Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (2)	Adult Complex Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery	Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery	2022	2025
Pathology	Clinical Chemistry	Pathology- Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical OR Pathology-Clinical	2017	2020
	Clinical Microbiology			
Psychiatry and Neurology	Central Nervous System Endovascular Surgery	Neurology or Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology	2018	2022
Radiology	Central Nervous System Endovascular Surgery	Diagnostic Radiology OR Interventional and Diagnostic Radiology, and Neuroradiology	2018	2022
Surgery (2)	Adult Complex Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery	Surgery	2022	2025
	Metabolic Bariatric Surgery	Surgery	2019	2022

†† Designation not yet issued.

- (1) The American Board of Family Medicine stopped issuing new designations in the Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine in 2025.
- (2) Diplomates may pursue the designation Adult Complex Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery through either the American Board of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery or the American Board of Surgery.