



American Board
of Medical Specialties

Higher standards. Better care.®

The American Board of Medical Specialties Reaffirms its Commitment to Enhancing Physicians' Nutritional Knowledge and Clinical Competence

As the nation's oldest and largest organization responsible for the creation of standards overseeing physician certification, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has long embraced the important role that nutrition has in specialty specific patient care. ABMS is committed to strengthen nutrition education and professional development across the health care continuum as recently highlighted by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

With more than one million board certified medical specialists in 38 specialties and 89 subspecialties, ABMS board certification is [relied upon by the public and patients](#) as an indicator of medical expertise and trustworthiness. ABMS recognizes that nutrition is a key determinant of health and is integrated into health promotion and disease prevention, support of surgical procedures, and chronic disease management across nearly all specialties. As an organization, ABMS has identified three key opportunities to further promote evidence-based nutritional knowledge and clinical competence of physicians and medical specialists:

- Assess and address identified gaps in nutrition content in initial and continuing certification programs;
- Accelerate implementation of practice-based quality improvement activities for diplomates to increase nutritional counseling and interventions in their practices; and
- Explore the creation of a lifestyle medicine focused practice designation.

Strengthening nutrition knowledge and assessment aligns with the ABMS mission to improve health care through high standards for physician board certification. The activities noted will also support the ABMS community in delivering on the vision of excellent care for every patient, from every board certified physician.