

ABMS Advocating for Specialty Medicine



American Board
of Medical Specialties
Higher standards. Better care.®

ABMS advocates for:



- ✓ Access to up-to-date, scientifically supported specialty care
- ✓ Partnerships between patients and physicians to make healthcare decisions
- ✓ Right of physicians to define the knowledge and skills necessary to provide specialty care
- ✓ Right of physicians to practice according to the standards of their specialty
- ✓ Right of independent certifying organizations to assess physicians on their specialty knowledge, clinical skills and competencies
- ✓ Right of physicians to set standards for medical education and specialty training
- ✓ Right of state medical boards and certifying organizations to enforce professional codes of conduct

ABMS Commitment to Physicians



Support the role of certified physicians in the US healthcare system

- Increase the value of certification to stakeholders
- Leverage certification programs to support physician well-being and reduce administrative burden
- Develop and promote policies that encourage physicians who are experiencing stress, burnout, or depression to seek care without jeopardizing their certification
- Advocate for policies that support the medical profession's role in setting and enforcing high professional standards
- Defend the patient-physician relationship and AMA Code of Medical Ethics



Maintain Higher Standards in Medicine

- Rigorous training and lifelong learning and assessment requirements sets physicians apart from other clinicians
- Lowering physician standards makes it easier to argue for replacement of physicians with other allied health professionals
- ABMS continuing certification demonstrates to patients and the public a commitment to staying current in the specialty

The ABMS represents specialty physicians through our Member Boards including:

American Board of Allergy and Immunology
American Board of Anesthesiology
American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery
American Board of Dermatology
American Board of Emergency Medicine
American Board of Family Medicine
American Board of Internal Medicine
American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics
American Board of Neurological Surgery
American Board of Nuclear Medicine
American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology
American Board of Ophthalmology

American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery
American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
American Board of Pathology
American Board of Pediatrics
American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Board of Plastic Surgery
American Board of Preventive Medicine
American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
American Board of Radiology
American Board of Surgery
American Board of Thoracic Surgery
American Board of Urology

Physicians Hold Themselves to Higher Standards



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Specialty Physician

Training

- 4 years medical school
- 3-7 years training post medical school in ACGME-accredited residency program
- 12,000–16,000 clinical hours



Initial Specialty Certification Requirements*

- Active medical license
- Completion of ACGME-accredited residency and/or fellowship program
- Documentation of competency and professionalism by residency program director
- Proctored examination of 240–300 questions
- Case lists, patient logs, recommendation letters
- Oral examinations
- Case list assessments/Case log reviews
- Peer reviews



Continuing Specialty Certification Requirements*

- Ongoing, longitudinal assessments of clinical knowledge and skills every 3-6 months
- Optional proctored examination every 5 years for some specialties
- Documentation of approved quality improvement activities
- Specialty-specific continuing medical education credits
- Self-assessment
- Adherence to specialty board's professionalism policies

Nurse Practitioner

Training

- As few as 20 months training post nursing school in a MS or PhD program or post-graduate certificate (online only programs available)
- No post-graduate residency training requirement
- 500 clinical hours



Initial Certification Requirements**

- Active nursing license
- Documentation of course completion
- Pass proctored exam of 150–175 questions



Re-certification Requirements**

- No assessment requirement for renewal with active certificate
- Continuing education hours
- One professional development activity (including presentations or volunteer activity)

**Based on American Nurses Credentialing Center and American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board

Physician Assistant

Training

- 24-27 month training from an ARC-PA-accredited MS program
- No post-graduate residency training requirement
- 2000 clinical hours



Initial Certification Requirements***

- Documentation of ARC-PA-accredited program completion
- Pass proctored Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination® (PANCE) exam of 300 questions
- Specialty certification optional



Re-certification Requirements***

- Assessment in last 7-10 years of certification cycle
- Continuing education hours

***Based on the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

*Based on ABMS certification. ABMS Member Boards set specific requirements for each specialty and sub-specialty