

How Can You Find Out if Your Doctor is Board-Certified?

To find out if your doctor is certified by an ABMS board, such as ABFM, you can call their toll free verification service at 1-866-ASK-ABMS.

There are over 180 medical specialty boards that are neither members of, nor recognized by, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). To learn more about the ABFM and other ABMS member boards, you can visit www.abms.org.

ABMS Member Boards

- American Board of Allergy & 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
- American Board of Neurological Surgery
- American Board of Nuclear Medicine
- American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology
- American Board of Ophthalmology
- American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery
- American Board of Otolaryngology
- American Board of Pathology
- American Board of Pediatrics
- American Board of Physical Medicine & 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



**WHAT'S SO SPECIAL
ABOUT YOUR
FAMILY PHYSICIAN?**

Your Doctor is Certified by the American Board of Family Medicine

Your family doctor is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM). Your doctor has made a commitment to meet high standards of patient care that requires participation in ongoing practice improvement, knowledge assessment, professionalism and continuing education. This means that your doctor keeps up with the latest advances in healthcare to meet the constantly changing medical needs of you and your family.

As a family physician, your doctor is concerned with the total health care of you and your family and is trained to diagnose and treat a wide variety of chronic and acute illness, as well as address wellness and health promotion. Your family physician receives a broad range of training that includes adult and pediatric medicine, obstetrics and woman's health, psychiatry and geriatrics. Family Physicians are trained in both ambulatory and hospital care and many practice in emergency rooms and nursing homes. Some hold extra training certificates in areas such as sports medicine, adolescent medicine, geriatric medicine, sleep medicine, and hospice and palliative medicine.



What is the American Board of Family Medicine?

The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) is the second largest medical specialty board in the U.S. The ABFM was founded in 1969, and is a voluntary, not-for-profit, private organization that seeks to:

- Promote excellence in medical care
- Assure the public of qualified family physicians who engage in life-long learning
- Support high standards in medical education and training in family medicine
- Evaluate family doctors that apply for and hold certificates in family medicine

The ABFM was the first medical specialty board to require recertification, or continual testing of its certified doctors, and has required a significant commitment from its doctors in the area of continuing medical education from the beginning.

The ABFM is one of the twenty-four certifying boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and is the only member board that certifies family doctors.

So, what is the ABMS? ABMS is made up of the twenty-four recognized medical specialty boards in this country, and certifies most of the doctors in the U.S. Doctors who obtain certification with ABMS boards must meet high standards in education and clinical practice, must continually participate in maintenance of certification, must take and pass ongoing tests of their medical knowledge, and must be fully licensed to practice medicine in their local areas.

What is Board Certification?

To be board-certified, your physician must hold an unrestricted license to practice medicine and have completed three years of specialty training in Family Medicine after graduation from medical school.

But it doesn't end there. Your doctor has also successfully completed a series of additional educational requirements within Maintenance of Certification for Family Physicians (MC-FP). ABFM Maintenance of Certification, now required for all certifying boards of the ABMS, allows the ABFM to continually assess its Diplomates. Additionally, as part of MC-FP, your doctor is required to retest on a regular basis, and must participate in ongoing educational and continuous practice improvement activities between exams. Doing this provides evidence to you that your doctor has kept up with the latest medical knowledge. The ABFM was the first to have all of our certified doctors participating in Maintenance of Certification for Family Physicians (MC-FP).

To learn more about the ABFM,

please visit our web site at

www.theabfm.org

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Quality healthcare, public trust...

setting the standards in Family Medicine