

**ABMS STATEMENT
ON
THE USE OF CERTIFICATION**

ABMS Member Board Certification signifies that a physician or medical specialist has demonstrated the knowledge, skill, clinical judgment and professionalism that are essential for the safe and effective practice of his or her medical or surgical specialty.

Continuing certification by an ABMS Member Board signifies that its physicians and medical specialists can objectively demonstrate that they are continuing to meet the standards in their specialties throughout their careers and are committed to improving patient care.

For these reasons, ABMS Member Board Certification is trusted by patients and physicians and widely used by medical groups, hospitals, health systems, health plans and employers as an indicator of physician quality.

ABMS and its Member Boards believe that physicians should be eligible for a medical license without specialty board certification or continuing certification. However, licensing boards should also be free to use specialty board certification and continuing certification as indicators of current competence.

Information about ABMS Member Board Certification and continuing certification should be available, along with other relevant information or other current validation of training, knowledge, skills, and professionalism, without legal constraint, for consideration by medical groups, hospitals, health systems, health plans and employers in privileging and credentialing activities and decisions.