

May 27, 2015

Dear **XXXXXX**,

I am contacting the **XYZ Hospital Medical Executive Committee** to advocate for an alternative continuing board certification pathway. Please consider allowing continued board certification by the National Board of Physicians and Surgeons (NBPAS) to fulfill the **XYZ Hospital** board certification requirements.

There is controversy surrounding the requirements for continued certification in a medical specialty. Many physicians believe recent changes by the American Board of Medical Specialties requiring physicians engage in various medical knowledge, practice–assessment, and patient–safety activities as well as recertification exams do not provide optimal use of physician’s time. Furthermore, no high quality data exist to justify these labor intensive and expensive activities. The NBPAS believes the following requirements provide the most appropriate metric for continued certification.

- Candidates must have been previously certified by an American Board of Medical Specialties member board.
- Candidates must have a valid, unrestricted license to practice medicine in at least one US state. Candidates who only hold a license outside of the U.S. must provide evidence of an unrestricted license from a valid non–U.S. licensing body.
- Candidates must have completed a minimum of 50 hours of continuing medical education (CME) within the past 24 months, provided by a recognized provider of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). CME must be related to one or more of the specialties in which the candidate is applying. Re–entry for physicians with lapsed certification requires 100 hours of CME with the past 24 months. Fellows–in–training are exempt.
- For some procedural and surgical specialties, candidates must have active privileges to practice that specialty in at least one US hospital licensed by a nationally recognized credentialing organization with deeming authority from CMS (ie Joint Commission, HFAP, DNV).
- A candidate who has had their medical staff appointment/membership or clinical privileges in the specialty for which they are seeking certification involuntarily revoked and not reinstated, must have subsequently maintained medical staff appointment/membership or clinical privileges for at least 24 months in another US hospital licensed by a nationally recognized credentialing organization with deeming authority from CMS (ie Joint Commission, HFAP, DNV).

The value of Continuing Medical Education (CME) for life-long learning:

Organizations providing recognized CME programs are regulated by a rigorous accreditation body (ACCME) requiring each CME offering provide an educational gap analysis, “needs assessment,” speaker conflict of interest, course evaluations and many other performance standards. CME can provide education in both established knowledge and also future directions that keep the physician on the “cutting edge.” CME offerings are highly competitive and provide choice. Therefore, using CME to fulfill life-long learning requirements provides efficiency and minimizes redundant activities

For a more complete discussion of the board certification controversy please use the link below to recent NEJM publications: Note, NBPAS offers certification in all ABMS specialties.

BOARDED TO DEATH — WHY MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION IS BAD FOR DOCTORS AND PATIENTS

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1407422>

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION 2.0 — STRONG START, CONTINUED EVOLUTION

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1409923>

NBPAS Board Members:

The NBPAS Advisory Board Members are physicians who value patient care, research, and life long learning. Board members (all unpaid) believe continuous physician education is required for excellence in patient care.

Paul Teirstein, M.D., President NBPAS, Chief of Cardiology, Scripps Clinic

John Anderson, M.D., Past President, Medicine and Science, American Diabetes Association, First Clinic, Nashville, TN

David John Driscoll, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

Daniel Einhorn, M.D., Immediate-Past President, American College of Endocrinology; Past President, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

Bernard Gersh, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

C. Michael Gibson, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Paul G. Mathew, M.D., FAHS, Director of Continuing Medical Education, Brigham & Women’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Department of Neurology

Jordan Metcalf, M.D., Professor and Research Director, Pulm. & Crit. Care, Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center

J. Marc Pipas, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Dartmouth Medical School

Jeffrey Popma, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Harry E. Sarles Jr., M.D., FACG, Immediate Past President for the American College of
Gastroenterology

Hal Scherz, M.D., Chief of Urology– Scottish Rite Children’s Hospital, Assoc Clinical Professor of
Urology Emory University

Karen S. Sibert, M.D., Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, Cedars–Sinai Medical Center,
Secretary, California Society of Anesthesiologists

Gregg W. Stone, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and
Surgeons

Eric Topol, M.D., Chief Academic Officer, Scripps Health; Director, Scripps Translational Science
Institute

Bonnie Weiner, M.D., Professor of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Mathew Williams, M.D., Chief, Division of Adult Cardiac Surgery, New York University Medical
Center

Please consider allowing continued board certification by the NBPAS to fulfill our
hospital’s certification requirements.

Sincerely yours,

XXXX YYYY, M.D.