



NAMSS Membership Maintenance of Certification Survey

September-November 2018

This survey was created by the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) and the American Hospital Association (AHA) and disseminated among the membership of NAMSS. The survey was intended to develop understanding of the current practices in place across hospitals and other healthcare facilities around the credentialing of practitioners with regards to board certification and the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) program of Maintenance of Certification (MOC). The survey received approximately 850 responses and was administered through SurveyMonkey.

Response Summary

Q1. “Does your health care facility require ABMS board certification for a physician to be granted medical staff privileges?”

- 71% of respondents answered “Yes.” 29% answered “No.”

Q2. “Do you offer exception pathways for physicians to demonstrate clinical competence/specialty expertise?” (If respondent answered “Yes” for Q1)

- 58% of respondents answered “No.” 42% answered “Yes.”

Q3. “Please describe the exception pathways provided by your facility.” (If respondent answered “Yes” for Q2)

- Documentation of training that demonstrates competency such as experience, case logs, clinical activity, or education.
- Time-limited waivers to obtain board certification.
- Case by case judgments by the governing board.
- Physician-submitted requests for waivers with explanatory information.
- Proof of proctorships/fellowships.

Q4. “What other criteria are considered beyond board certification?”

- Documentation of equivalent training, education, or experience demonstrating competence.
- Peer, hospital, and/or department head references.
- Board eligibility.
- Foreign training and/or board certification.
- Demonstration of ACGME/ABMS core competencies.
- Proof of fellowship.
- Residency training.
- Patient outcome data.
- DEA/CDS liability coverage.
- Continuing Medical Education/MOC
- Focused Professional Practice Evaluations (FPPE)

Q5. “Is participation in continuing certification/Maintenance of Certification (MOC) required to obtain medical staff privileges?”

- 50.5% of respondents answered “Yes.” 49.5% answered “No.”

Q6. “Does your facility accept any additional specialty board certifications besides ABMS (such as the National Board of Physicians and Surgeons or the American Board of Physician Specialties)?”

- 58% of respondents answer “No.” 42% answered “Yes.”

Q7. “What other certifications does your facility currently accept?” (If respondent answered “Yes” to Q6)

- American Osteopathic Association (AOA)
- American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS)
- American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM)
- National Board of Physicians and Surgeons (NBPAS)
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (RCPS)

Q8. “Is your facility considering accepting any additional certifications? Please fill in the certifications under consideration.”

- Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)
- American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG)
- National Certification Commission of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (AANC)
- American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS)
- American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS)
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)

Q9. “For recertifying practitioners, does your health care facility require participation in continuing certification/MOC to maintain medical staff privileges?”

- 59% of respondents answered “Yes.” 41% answered “No.”

Q10. “Do you offer exception pathways for physicians whose certification has lapsed?” (If respondent answered “Yes” for Q9)

- 57% of respondents answered “No.” 43% answered “Yes.”

Q11. "Please describe the exception pathways." (If respondent answered "Yes" for Q10)

- Time-limited exceptions/waivers based off of department.
- Requirements to formally request waivers.
- Extensions granted by credentials committee.
- Competency verification (through case logs, peer reviews, etc.)
- Grace periods allowed if exam dates are scheduled.

Q12. "For recertifying practitioners, what other criteria are considered beyond board certification?"

- References and competencies from other affiliations (such as case logs, experience, education).
- Specialty-specific continuing medical education.
- Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluations (OPPE).
- Quality of patient care.
- Licensure.

Q13. "Do you differentiate between initial certification and maintenance of certification?"

- 57% of respondents answered "No." 43% answered "Yes."

Q14. "Do you monitor whether physicians are participating in programs to maintain their certificates?"

- 60% of respondents answered "Yes." 40% answered "No."