

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Hospitals and Medical Executive Committees

Q: What is the National Board of Physicians and Surgeons (NBPAS)?

A: NBPAS is a nonprofit organization that provides physicians and hospitals a choice for allopathic or osteopathic board certification. Founded in 2014 by Dr. Paul Teirstein, Chief of Cardiology, Scripps Clinic, NBPAS supports life-long learning, and requires rigorous, specialty-specific, fully accredited Continuing Medical Education (CME).

NBPAS requires all physicians to meet the same standards, fostering equity and inclusiveness among a diverse physician community.

NBPAS represents nearly 10,000 physicians at 147 hospitals in all 50 states.

Q: Is NBPAS an accepted form of board certification?

A: NBPAS meets national accreditation standards for physician board certification. These standards *require* Primary Source Verification of a physician's education and training. NBPAS performs Primary Source Verification on physician credentials.

Q: Which hospitals accept NBPAS?

A: 147 hospitals and health systems accept NBPAS including well known institutions such as Sibley Memorial (Johns Hopkins Health System), Hackensack University Medical Center, St. Jude Medical Center, Wellstar Health System (Atlanta), and Hackensack University Medical Center, among many others. Please see here for a complete listing: <https://nbpas.org/hospitals-accepting-diplomates/>

Q: Is NBPAS acceptable by health insurers?

A: NBPAS meets the national accreditation standards for health insurance plans set forth by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC) and is fully acceptable by health insurance carriers.

Q: What are the NBPAS certification requirements?

A: NBPAS requires:

- Initial board certification through an ABMS or AOA board.
- Active and unrestricted medical license
- 50 hours of specialty specific, ACCME Category 1 CME hours
- 100 hours of specialty specific, ACCME Category 1 CME hours (if board certification has expired)
- Active hospital or outpatient facility privileges (for some specialties), that must be licensed by a nationally credentialing organization with deeming authority from CMS.

Q: Who governs NBPAS?

A: NBPAS is led by an unpaid board of directors composed of thought leaders in academic and clinical medicine including Harvard Medical Center/Brigham and Women’s Hospital, the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Johns Hopkins, NYU Medical Center, the Scripps Clinic, the American Diabetes Association, Columbia University Medical Center, and the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, among others.

Q: What are the demographics of NBPAS physicians?

A: NBPAS physician diplomates are largely mid-career and earlier career physicians. NBPAS continues to grow rapidly as increasing numbers of physicians recognize that NBPAS offers physicians a board recertification choice that supports clinical excellence, professionalism, and life-long learning.

NBPAS diplomates are dedicated, frontline physicians representing primary care disciplines as well as all ABMS/AOA recognized specialties and subspecialties. Our physicians are employed independently, and by hospitals, health systems, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), and other prominent national research organizations such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NBPAS physicians have also served as expert witnesses for the United States Department of Justice (DOJ).

Q: What are the benefits of accepting NBPAS?

- Allows physicians to maintain their board certification in a manner that promotes lifelong learning, and outstanding professional and clinical standards
- Reduces physician burnout by allowing physicians to study the best and clinically relevant CME
- Is cost effective, reducing hospital CME reimbursement costs
- Adds an important tool for recruiting and retaining physicians, especially as the physician shortage grows
- NBPAS increases access to highly qualified physicians
- NBPAS decreases healthcare and hospital costs by providing a more affordable choice for board recertification

Q: How does a hospital add NBPAS?

A: Adding NBPAS to hospital bylaws is straightforward. A hospital or health system simply adds NBPAS as an option for physician board certification once the change is approved by its Medical Executive Committee (MEC).