

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **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 recertification. Founded in 2015 by Paul Teirstein, M.D. and a group of visionary physicians, NBPAS supports life-long learning, and requires rigorous, specialty-specific, ACCME-accredited Continuing Medical Education (CME).

NBPAS requires all physicians to meet the same standards, fostering equity and inclusiveness among a diverse physician community, and provides a tangible solution to burnout and the growing, national physician shortage.

NBPAS represents over 10,000 physicians in all 50 states working at hospitals, health systems, telemedicine companies, and health plans.

### **Q: Is NBPAS an accepted form of board certification?**

A: NBPAS meets national accreditation standards for hospitals and health plans including being named as a Designated Equivalent Source Agency by The Joint Commission (see here: <https://national-board-of-physicians-and-surgeons.prowly.com/198843-the-joint-commission-adds-the-national-board-of-physicians-and-surgeons-nbpas>). In addition, NBPAS is recognized by the DNV, NCQA, and URAC.

These standards *require* Primary Source Verification of a physician's education and training. NBPAS performs Primary Source Verification of physician credentials.

### **Q: What organizations accept NBPAS?**

A: NBPAS is accepted at many hospitals, health systems, and telemedicine companies nationwide. Please see here for a complete listing: <https://nbpas.org/hospitals-accepting-diplomates/>

### **Q: How does a hospital add NBPAS?**

A: Adding NBPAS is straightforward. An organization simply adds NBPAS to its bylaws once the change is approved by a Medical Executive Committee (MEC) or administrative leadership. Please visit our resources page to help get the conversation started at your organization <https://nbpas.org/resources/nbpas-materials/>.

### **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. NBPAS is proud to be accepted by many health insurers

nationwide and was recently recognized by the largest behavior health network serving over 40 million patients.

**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, AMA PRA Category 1 CME hours
- 100 hours of specialty specific, AMA PRA 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 NBPAS?**

- NBPAS offers physicians a less-burdensome pathway to maintain board certification and is a
- tangible solution to burnout and the growing national physician shortage
- NBPAS requires the same standards for all physicians and does not discriminate based on age or length of practice.
- NBPAS is an outstanding tool to recruit and retain board certified physicians during a severe and growing shortage.
- Adding NBPAS is straightforward and accomplished through a simple addition of NBPAS to an entity’s credentialing policies.
- NBPAS is 72% less costly as compared with other recertification options with no convincing data to support superior clinical outcomes through the more expensive pathways.

**Q: How much does NBPAS cost?**

- Recertification with NBPAS costs \$94.50 per year, discounts for military and fellows available.