

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

A: NBPAS is a nonprofit organization providing physicians a choice in continuous board certification. NBPAS supports life-long learning through rigorous, specialty-specific, ACCME-accredited AMA PRA Category 1™ CME, widely recognized in the United States as the premier source for continuing medical education credits.

Through its streamlined and clinically specific requirements, NBPAS provides a tangible solution to burnout and the growing national physician shortage.

NBPAS certifies physicians in all 50 states who are employed with hospitals, health systems, telemedicine companies, health plans, independent practices, and government institutions.

Q: Does NBPAS exempt older physicians through time-unlimited certifications?

A: No. NBPAS requires all physicians to meet the same standards regardless of age or length of practice and believes that uniformly high standards are necessary to support public trust, transparency in continuous board certification, and to provide outstanding patient care.

Q: Is NBPAS an accepted form of continuous 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://nbpas.org/blogs/news/the-joint-commission-has-added-nbpas-as-a-designated-equivalent-source-agency-effective-immediately>). In addition, NBPAS is recognized by the DNV, CIHQ, ACHC, 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/pages/accepting-hospitals>

Q: Is NBPAS accepted 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). NBPAS is proud to be accepted by many health insurers nationwide and was recently recognized by the largest behavioral health network in the United States serving over 40 million patients, among many others.

Q: How does a hospital add NBPAS?

A: Adding NBPAS is straightforward. An organization 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/pages/nbpas-materials/>.

Q: What are the NBPAS certification requirements?

A: NBPAS requires:

- Previous board certification through an ABMS or AOA member board
- Active and unrestricted medical license
- 50 hours of specialty-specific, AMA PRA Category 1 CME™ hours
- Active hospital or outpatient facility privileges (for some specialties), that must be licensed by a nationally credentialing organization with deeming authority from CMS.
- Identical requirements for all physicians regardless of age or length of practice

Q: What is AMA PRA Category 1 CME™?

A: AMA PRA Category 1 CME™ is widely regarded as the gold standard of continuing medical education in the United States. Its purpose and application is described by the American Medical Association (AMA) as intending to:

- “Serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships that a physician uses to provide services for patients, the public or the profession”
- “Meet CME requirements established by hospital credentialing bodies, state medical boards, medical specialty certifying boards, medical specialty societies, Joint Commission, and other organizations.”
- “*AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* is the most commonly accepted form of CME credit for physicians and is also the basis for receiving the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award.”

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 dedicated, frontline physicians, largely early and mid-career. 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).

NBPAS continues to grow as physicians and employers recognize NBPAS commitment to clinical excellence, professionalism, and life-long learning.

Q: What are the benefits of NBPAS?

- NBPAS offers physicians a less-burdensome pathway for continuous 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 continuously 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 certification options with no widely accepted data/evidence to support superior clinical outcomes through the more expensive pathways.

Q: What is the cost of NBPAS?

A: Continuous board certification with NBPAS costs \$94.50 per year, discounts for military and fellows available.

Q: Is NBPAS part of ABMS?

A: No. NBPAS is an independent organization and is **not** affiliated with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).