

The American Board of Urology

For the benefit of the public, the American Board of Urology (ABU) was organized in 1935 to encourage study, improve standards, and promote competency in the practice of urology. By establishing and maintaining standards of certification for urologists, it acts to ensure high quality, safe, efficient, and ethical practice of this medical field. The ABU is a member, along with 23 other medical specialty boards, of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) which certifies physicians in the United States, Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories, and Canada.

Urology is a surgical specialty that deals with the treatment of conditions involving the male and female urinary tract and the male reproductive organs. Though specialized, urologists encounter a wide variety of clinical problems. The scope of diseases and disorders urologists address requires a working knowledge of internal medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, and other specialties. In recognition, the American Urological Association has identified eight subspecialty areas. Though residency trains in all domains of urology, many urologists choose to subspecialize in one of these areas:

- Pediatric Urology
- Urologic Oncology (cancer)
- Renal Transplantation
- Male Sexual Function and Infertility
- Male Reconstructive Surgery
- Calculi (urinary tract stones)
- Female Urology
 - Urinary Incontinence
 - Pelvic Outlet Relaxation Disorders
- Genitourinary Trauma
- Neurourology
 - Voiding Disorders
 - Urodynamic Evaluation of Patients
 - Erectile Dysfunction or Impotence



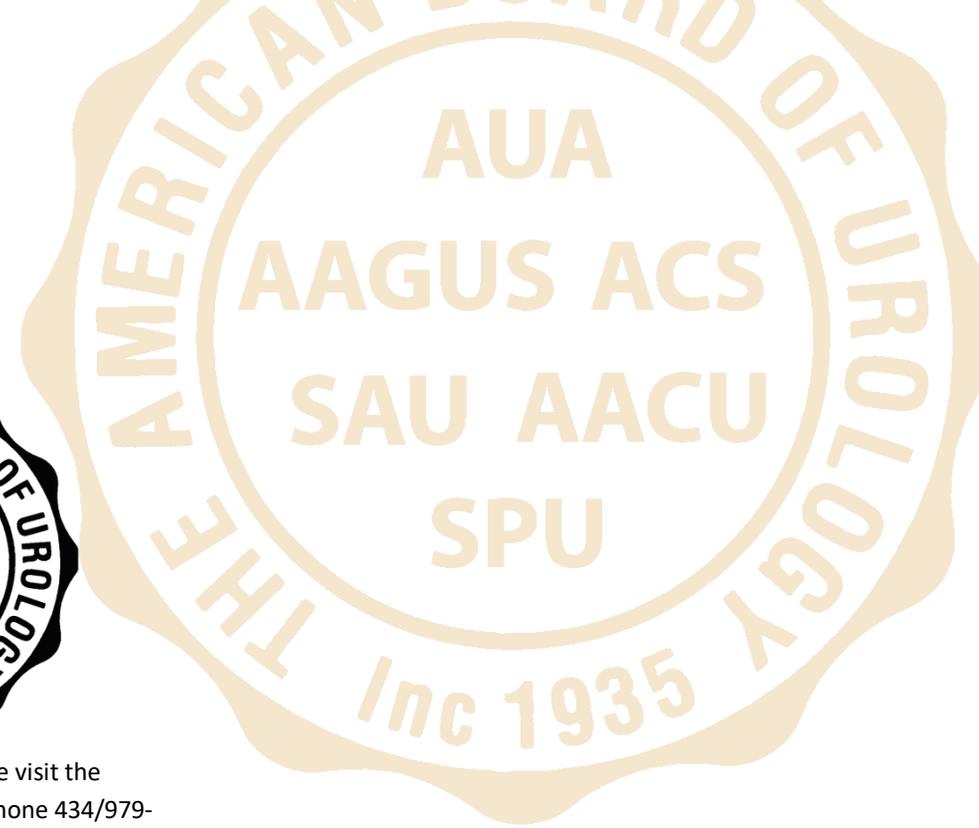
For more information, please visit the website: www.abu.org or phone 434/979-0059.

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Your Urologic
Surgeon is
Certified
by the
American Board
of Urology

The Importance of Board Certification

Medical specialty certification in the United States is a voluntary process. While state medical licensure sets the minimum competency requirements to diagnose and treat patients, it is not specialty specific. Board certification demonstrates a physician's expertise in a particular specialty and/or subspecialty of medical practice.

Certification by the American Board of Urology (ABU) involves rigorous testing and evaluation designed and administered by leaders in the field of urology. The certification process evaluates a urologist's clinical skills based on education, examination, review of actual surgical cases, peer review, and other criteria.

At one time, physicians were awarded certificates that were not time-limited and, therefore, did not require renewal. Later, a program of periodic recertification (every ten years) was initiated to ensure urologists remained engaged in continuing education to keep current in their specialty.

In 2006, the American Board of Medical Specialties' twenty-four-member boards adopted a new standard for recertification with a continuous maintenance of certification program. The ABU's version of this program is known as Life Long Learning (LLL) and its mission is to advance the clinical practice of urology by promoting the highest evidence-based guidelines and standards to ensure excellence in all areas of care and practice improvement. The ABU endeavors to assure the public that board certified urologists have remained current with evolving knowledge, that their practices meet acceptable standards, and that they are recognized and respected by their patients and peers.

A Diplomate of the American Board of Urology may hold a life certificate or a time-limited certificate subject to LLL. All certificates issued by the ABU were achieved through the same rigorous testing and evaluation process.

Requirements for Certification and Maintenance of Certification

ABU Board certification and participation in the Life Long Learning program include the following components:

Education

- Graduation from an accredited medical school
- Satisfactory completion of a minimum of five clinical years of postgraduate training in a urology residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPS-C). Twelve months of the residency must be spent in general surgery or core surgery rotations. The remaining years of training must be dedicated to urology, with at least twelve months spent as a chief resident.

Examinations

Certification Examinations

- Successful completion of the Qualifying (Part 1) Examination – a proctored, computerized examination designed to assess knowledge of the entire field of urology and allied subjects.
- Successful completion of the Certifying (Part 2) Examination – an interactive oral examination between an examiner and candidate designed to assess the candidate's ability to diagnose and manage ordinary and complex urologic problems.

Life Long Learning Recertification Examinations

- Successful completion of the LLL Recertification Examination, a proctored, computerized examination covering all domains of urology.

Review of Credentials

- Positive and favorable peer review from colleagues and administrators at each facility where a candidate practices urology.
- Submission of a time specified practice log of all patient encounters and surgical procedures that reflects adequate breadth and depth to demonstrate clinical proficiency.
- Proof of valid, unrestricted state medical licensure.
- Documentation of continuing medical education in urology-focused coursework and endeavors.
- Self-assessment through completion of online learning tools based on current clinical guidelines for urology (LLL only).

Subspecialty Certification in Pediatric Urology

In 2007, pediatric urology became the first of two subspecialty certifications currently issued by the American Board of Urology. Applicants for this certification must hold a current, unrestricted, general ABU certificate. Pediatric subspecialty certification is time-limited and subject to LLL. Beyond those of the general urology certificate, requirements of the pediatric urology subspecialty certificate include satisfactory completion of a 2 year or longer accredited pediatric urology fellowship program; and documentation proving a candidate's practice not only has a focus of 75% or more in pediatric urology, but also includes a significant number of major pediatric surgical cases.

Subspecialty Certification in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

In 2013, the ABU implemented subspecialty certification in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS). Applicants for this certification must hold a current, unrestricted, general ABU certificate. FPMRS subspecialty certification is time-limited and subject to LLL. Beyond those of the general urology certificate, requirements of the FPMRS subspecialty certificate include satisfactory completion of an ACGME approved FPMRS fellowship program of at least two years in length; and documentation proving the candidate's practice reflects significant overall FPMRS breadth and complexity and includes a minimum number of FPMRS specific index cases.

Please note: Diplomates of the American Board of Urology with a general urology certificate are certified to be trained in all areas of urology, including those for which subspecialty certificates are available.