



American Board of Urology Code of Professionalism

Background

The American Board of Urology (ABU) mission is to act for the benefit of the public to ensure high quality, safe, effective, and ethical practice of Urology by establishing and maintaining standards of certification for urologists. Accordingly, the ABU has adopted the following Code of Professionalism.

Policy

- I. ABU certification requirements for professionalism includes an ethical requirement to:
 - a. Treat patients in a safe and fair manner without bias based on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, or religion.
 - b. Demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for patients, families, and other members of the health care team in all types of interactions.
 - c. Respect patient privacy and autonomy.
 - d. Be accountable to patients, peers, and the public.
- II. Certified diplomates are assumed to meet professional standards of conduct unless credible, verifiable evidence exists of relevant misconduct. "Relevant misconduct" is any conduct related or unrelated to practice that represents, in the sole judgment of the ABU, the following:
 - a. A risk to the safety of patients, other members of the health care team, or the public;
 - b. A threat to the trustworthiness of the profession or of the certification; or
 - c. An inability to practice at the level of a certified specialist, as defined by the ABU.

The ABU Code of Professionalism requires ABU-certified physicians to adhere to this construct.

- III. ABU diplomates are required to report (within sixty days of action or event):
 - a. Any potential breach of this Code as well as any alteration in the status of a state or federal medical or drug license or encumbrance on a license.
 - b. Surrendering any state medical license to avoid action by a state medical licensing board.
 - c. A felony conviction or federal indictment.
 - d. Any restriction on a DEA license.
 - e. Any exclusion from participating in Medicaid or Medicare.
 - f. Any sanction or disciplinary action by a medical board.
 - g. Any involuntary revocation of staff privileges.

ABU-certified physicians who do not report any such actions will be subject to review under ABU's disciplinary action process.

- IV. ABU-certified physicians may not:
 - a. Have any state medical license with an encumbrance. Every license held by the physician must be unencumbered irrespective of the state in which the physician practices.

- b. Provide false, misleading, or untruthful information on an application for certification or any other ABU-requested document, including surgical logs, or to the public.
 - c. Inaccurately represent one's certification status.
 - d. Use ABU certification to advertise board certification credentials for clinical practice areas that are outside the scope of practice for a urologist.
 - e. Share the content of any ABU written or Oral Examination. Verbal or written reproduction of test material, including the in-service examination, is strictly prohibited. The material is copyrighted and sharing the information may be a federal offense.
 - f. Cheat on any ABU examination.
 - g. Obstruct any ABU investigation.
- V. The ABU may consider credible evidence of any crime or tortious conduct involving moral turpitude or unethical behavior for which a diplomate is convicted, enters a guilty plea or nolo contendere or is found liable by a judge or jury (e.g. violence committed against another person, medical malpractice or sexual assault).
- VI. Documentary evidence of public misrepresentation of clinical evidence or flaunting of scientific evidence that may represent a harm to patients or the public
- VII. Diplomates must report any actions or events that may constitute a breach of professional norms within sixty (60) days of the action or event. Diplomates must provide any pertinent information and documentation related to "relevant misconduct."
- VIII. ABU-certified physicians who engage in "relevant misconduct" will be subject to review under ABU's disciplinary action process.
- IX. Conduct prohibited by this Code shall be reviewed by the ABU Board of Trustees and may result in decertification.
- X. Exception:

ABU maintains an appeal process for physicians who are found in breach of the professional and ethical standards outlined above, which can be found below.

Adverse Decisions

If the final action of the Board is a decision to deny certification to an applicant, to deny recertification to a Diplomate with a time-limited certificate, or to revoke the certificate of a Diplomate, the Board shall send written notice thereof to the applicant or Diplomate. The Notice shall state the reasons for the Board's decision.

Request for Hearing

An applicant or a Diplomate who receives such a Notice may, within thirty (30) days after mailing by the Board, give written notice to the Board that he wishes to request a hearing to appeal the Board's decision. The written notice shall set forth the specific reasons given by the Board which are alleged to be erroneous and shall indicate whether the applicant or Diplomate wishes to attend the hearing.