



# American Board of Medical Specialties

Higher standards. Better care.®

American Board of Medical Specialties  
353 North Clark Street, Suite 1400  
Chicago, IL 60654  
T: (312) 436-2600  
F: (312) 436-2700

[www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org)

January 1, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) considers the provision of physician specialty board certification data as an important part of its ongoing mission and views the credentialing process and the credentials verification sub-process as a foundational component of patient safety.

ABMS takes the validity, credibility, reliability and integrity of its primary equivalent board certification data very seriously. We carefully review what products and organizations will be allowed to distribute ABMS board certification data based upon concerns for patient safety and compliance with The Joint Commission, NCQA and URAC accreditation requirements.

Therefore, ABMS has entered into a license agreement with Elsevier, Inc. to designate the Elsevier products listed below with Official ABMS Display Agent status. Elsevier has been designated as an Official ABMS Display Agent since inception of the ABMS Display Agent program in 2005. Elsevier's designation has been continuous and will remain in force throughout the term of the agreement between ABMS and Elsevier. The designation of Official ABMS Display Agent status is subject to continued compliance with program guidelines and is subject to audit by ABMS. Elsevier will continue to serve as one of the providers of primary source equivalent ABMS specialty board certification data (self-reported biographical data is not primary source) when such data is delivered through the following Elsevier authorized products and services and no other's when provided in accordance with the requirements of the Official ABMS Display Agent Program. Designation as an Official ABMS Display Agent is made on a product specific basis and which for Elsevier currently includes the following products:

1. **BoardCertifiedDocs.com** for certification information which is updated twice monthly
2. **The Supporting ABMS Database Directory Datafile** for site licenses as specifically approved by ABMS

As a condition of maintaining its Official ABMS Display Agent designation, Elsevier agrees to abide by ABMS guidelines applicable to such designees, which are intended to protect the security and quality of ABMS board certification data.

ABMS specialty board certification data may be considered as Primary Source Verification (PSV) only if delivered from the specific products and services approved for Official ABMS Display Agent status. These products vary in format, features, functionality, intended application and data update frequency. Users of these products should determine the most appropriate sources for their unique needs.

#### Member Boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties

American Board of Allergy and Immunology | American Board of Anesthesiology | American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery | American Board of Dermatology  
American Board of Emergency Medicine | American Board of Family Medicine | American Board of Internal Medicine | American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American Board of Neurological Surgery | American Board of Nuclear Medicine | American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology | American Board of Ophthalmology  
American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery | American Board of Otolaryngology | American Board of Pathology | American Board of Pediatrics  
American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation | American Board of Plastic Surgery | American Board of Preventive Medicine | American Board of Psychiatry  
and Neurology | American Board of Radiology | American Board of Surgery | American Board of Thoracic Surgery | American Board of Urology

Valerie M. Parisi, MD, MPH, MBA  
Chair

John C. Moorhead, MD  
Chair Elect

John G. Clarkson, MD  
Secretary-Treasurer

Thomas E. Norris, MD  
Immediate Past Chair

Lois Margaret Nora, MD, JD, MBA  
President and Chief Executive Officer



## American Board of Medical Specialties

*Higher standards. Better care.®*

American Board of Medical Specialties  
353 North Clark Street, Suite 1400  
Chicago, IL 60654  
T: (312) 436-2600  
F: (312) 436-2700

[www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org)

ABMS specialty board certification data may nevertheless be available from other sources that have not been designated as Official ABMS Display Agent sources. ABMS however, is not currently able to validate (according to the minimum safeguards deemed necessary) that these non-designated sources use processes and procedures that are sufficient to maintain the security and integrity of ABMS board certification data.

ABMS recommends that persons or entities using ABMS data, particularly for physician credentialing and privileging purposes or purposes involving patient safety, rely on products and services directly from ABMS or from ABMS licensed products displaying the designation of *Official ABMS Display Agent*.

ABMS will publish an updated list of Official ABMS Display Agents to accrediting bodies as changes are made to that list.

Thank you for supporting the promotion of quality healthcare in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Skarnulis".

Laura Skarnulis  
Chief Operating Officer  
American Board of Medical Specialties

Inquiries regarding the Official ABMS Display Agent program and other credentialing and business related questions may be directed to:

David Urda  
Director, Business Development & Strategy  
American Board of Medical Specialties  
[urda@abms.org](mailto:urda@abms.org)  
312-436-2674