

# The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc.®

Suite 400 · 1635 Market Street · Philadelphia, PA 19103-2204

Phone: 215-587-9322 · FAX 215-587-9622 · Internet: <http://www.abplasticsurgery.org>



## Continuous Certification in Plastic Surgery Physicians with Special Circumstances Policy

**November 2019**

Diplomates who do not practice plastic surgery by providing direct or supervised patient care can maintain their plastic surgery certification status on a continuous basis by engaging in the Continuous Certification program activities. Diplomates must submit a formal request addressed to the Executive Director for consideration of participation in Continuous Certification under the policy for Physicians with Special Circumstances. The diplomate will then receive notification from the Board confirming their status in the Continuous Certification program.

### **Physicians with Special Circumstances (Surgically Inactive)**

“**Clinically inactive**” and “**surgically inactive**” plastic surgeons are defined as those who are currently retired, disabled, on sabbatical, working in administrative positions or research. Surgically inactive physicians are not seeing patients on a regular basis, nor are they regularly performing any of the common plastic surgery operations (tracer procedures). The non-practicing physician, who participates in Continuous Certification, will still be reported to ABMS and to the public as “certified, participating in Continuous Certification” and “current” or “not current” on Continuous Certification requirements.

This category applies to those diplomates who are **surgically inactive**. If approved, this diplomate must complete an ABPS-approved patient safety activity in lieu of a Practice Improvement activity in years 3 and 6 of the 10 year cycle and is also exempt from certain professionalism requirements. Diplomates must complete the Professional Standing Update; however, hospital privileges, peer reviews, and outpatient accreditation are not required.

- ✓ Must have a valid and unrestricted license to practice medicine
- ✓ Must complete a patient safety activity in lieu of a Practice Improvement activity
- ✓ Exempt from certain Professional Standing requirements (hospital privileges, outpatient accreditation and peer review)

Change in practice status must be reported to the Board immediately. For those diplomates who reenter practice after a leave of absence of two or more years, a reentry pathway is required. The guidelines for surgeons seeking to re-enter surgical practice are detailed in the ABPS Re-Entry policy.

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## Physicians with Special Circumstances (Suspended Certificates)

This category applies to physicians who are surgically inactive and have a suspended certificate. As detailed in the Discipline Policy, the ABPS requires that the diplomate continue Continuous Certification participation through the Physicians with Special Circumstances Policy. If approved, the diplomate must complete an ABPS-approved patient safety activity in lieu of the Practice Improvement activity in years 3 and 6. Diplomates must complete the Professional Standing Update; however, hospital privileges, peer reviews, and outpatient accreditation are not required.

- ✓ Must complete a patient safety activity in lieu of a Practice Improvement activity
- ✓ Are exempt from certain Professional Standing requirements
- ✓ Must update the Board on an annual basis regarding the status all medical licenses

Changes in practice status must be reported to the Board immediately. For those diplomates who re-enter clinical practice after a leave of absence of two or more years, a re-entry process is required. The guidelines for surgeons seeking to re-enter surgical practice are detailed in the ABPS Re-Entry policy.

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### Physicians with Special Circumstances (Surgically Inactive)

#### Professional Standing Update & Practice Improvement Activity Required during Continuous Certification cycle

| PROFESSIONAL STANDING UPDATE           | REQUIRED |
|--|----------|
| State Medical License                  |          |
| Hospital Privileges in Plastic Surgery | Exempt   |
| Peer Review Evaluation                 | Exempt   |
| Accredited Surgical Facilities         | Exempt   |
| Advertising Materials                  |          |
| CME – at least 125 hours in five years |          |

| PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY  | EXEMPT – MUST COMPLETE ABPS-APPROVED PATIENT SAFETY ACTIVITY IN LIEU OF PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY |
|--|---|
| Tracer Procedure – enter data from 10 consecutive cases of 1 procedure |   |
| Benchmarking report review   |   |
| ABPS-approved CME activity aligned with tracer                         |   |
| Self-Evaluation for Improvement (Action Plan)                          |   |

#### Self-Assessment Activity Required during Continuous Certification cycle

| SELF-ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY*  | REQUIRED |
|--|----------|
| Required in eight of ten years   |          |
| <i>*Diplomates with certificates expiring prior to 2020 will complete the Continuous Certification Examination</i> |          |

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## Continuous Certification in Plastic Surgery Physicians with Special Circumstances Policy

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### Physicians with Special Circumstances (Suspended Certificate)

#### Professional Standing Update & Practice Improvement Activity Required during Continuous Certification cycle

| PROFESSIONAL STANDING UPDATE           | REQUIRED   |
|--|--|
| State Medical License                  | Must update Board annually on status of all licenses |
| Hospital Privileges in Plastic Surgery | Exempt   |
| Peer Review Evaluation                 | Exempt   |
| Accredited Surgical Facilities         | Exempt   |
| Advertising Materials                  |  |
| CME – at least 125 hours in five years |  |

| PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY  | EXEMPT – MUST COMPLETE ABPS-APPROVED PATIENT SAFETY ACTIVITY IN LIEU OF PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY |
|--|---|
| Tracer Procedure – enter data from 10 consecutive cases of 1 procedure |   |
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