

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

This policy is applicable to the following diplomates who are participating in the Continuous Certification Program:

- **Diplomates certified for >10 years, requesting a waiver of the hospital privilege requirement. This request will be considered by the Continuous Certification Committee.**
- Diplomates who do not practice plastic surgery by providing direct or supervised patient care requesting to maintain their plastic surgery certification status on a continuous basis by engaging in the Continuous Certification program activities. This request will be considered by the Executive Director and/or Continuous Certification Committee.
- Diplomates who have had their certificate suspended by the Board requesting to continue participating in the Continuous Certification program under this policy. In these cases, diplomates are unable to renew expired certification until the Ethics Committee lifts the suspension.

Approval Process: 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.

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Physicians with Special Circumstances (Surgically Active, waiver request for hospital privileges)

All Candidates must have full admitting hospital privileges to be eligible for the certification process. Diplomates must maintain full admitting hospital privileges through the first 10-year cycle of Continuous Certification. **The Board strongly encourages all Diplomates to maintain hospital privileges throughout their career.** After the first 10 year cycle, in certain Hardship cases, a Diplomate may petition the Credentials Committee to allow a Licensed or Accredited Operating Facility to substitute for Hospital Privileges. **If a Diplomate petitions that a Licensed/Accredited Operating Facility substitute for Hospital privileges the following requirements must be met:**

- The Diplomate must have previously held full unrestricted admitting hospital privileges.
- The Diplomate must not have lost hospital privileges as part of an adverse action or patient care issues.
- The Diplomate must provide the Board with a copy of each Operating Facility accreditation at each renewal and at a minimum of every three years.
- Within the Licensed/Accredited Operating Facility the Diplomate should limit their practice to procedures for which he/she previously held hospital privileges. If performing other procedures, the Diplomate must have received appropriate training and demonstrate competence. Proof of such training/competence must be submitted to the Board upon request.
- Upon request, the Diplomate must provide the Board with a written transfer agreement for patients requiring hospital admission.
- Any major untoward patient event reported to the Licensing or Accrediting Agency must also be reported to the Board.
- The Diplomate will solicit FOUR peer reviews to be sent to the ABPS at requested times during the Continuing Certification cycle. Reviews will be solicited from: 1. An ABPS-certified colleague familiar with the Diplomate's work, 2. The physician performing the Diplomate's peer review as required by the licensing/accrediting agency, 3. An Anesthesia Provider who works with the Diplomate, and 4. The Nursing Supervisor of the Licensed/Accredited Operating Facility.
- If and when the Licensed/Accredited Operating Facility is subjected to a random or for-cause re-survey outside of the three-year cycle, the results of that re-survey must be submitted to the Board.

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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.

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 reenter 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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Continuous Certification in Plastic Surgery Physicians with Special Circumstances Policy

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Physicians with Special Circumstances (Surgically Active, waiver of hospital privileges)

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	
Accredited Surgical Facilities	
Advertising Materials	
CME – at least 125 hours in five years	

PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY	REQUIRED
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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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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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	
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>	