

Online Registration Cover Letter for the 2026 Hand Surgery Continuous Certification Form

Registration for the HSE for Recertification must be completed
and finalized via the Board's website by **June 15, 2026**.

To access the Registration form, follow these instructions:

- ⇒ Go to <http://www.abplasticsurgery.org>
- ⇒ Log in to your Physician Profile (top right of home page)*
- ⇒ Click the Hand tab
- ⇒ Access the link to the 2026 Hand Surgery Continuous Certification Form

*Your username and password, unless you have customized it, is:

- 🖨 Username = Board ID #
- 🖨 Password = last name (this is case-sensitive and first letter is capitalized – Ex: Smith)

Contact the Board Office at info@abplasticsurgery.org if you need assistance logging in to the website.

Online submission requirements:

- 📎 Finalized form with online credit card payment of the \$500.00 Subspecialty Certification Fee
- 📎 PDF files of all State/Province medical license(s) that indicate a valid expiration date
- 📎 PDF files of all appointment/reappointment letters verifying hospital privileges
- 📎 PDF files of all certificates or currently-dated documentation from the accrediting organization verifying the accreditation of all non-hospital affiliated surgical facilities
 - ☒ List all outpatient facilities. Certificates are not required for hospital-based surgical centers accredited by the Joint Commission but the facility must be identified on the application.

Internet Based Testing

As you may be aware, starting in 2018 the Hand Surgery Exam for Recertification has converted to an Internet Based Exam format, administered annually in 30-question assessments. Diplomates will no longer need to make an appointment to travel to a Prometric Testing Center. Instead, the assessments may be taken from any web-based device during the administration April 1 – May 18, 2026.

Web Data Solutions may be reached at support@dataharborsolutions.com or by telephone at (312) 944-0642 (8:00 am – 5:00 pm CST) for technical support.



Hand Surgery Continuous Certification: Important Dates and Deadlines

Hand Surgery Continuous Certification Registration Form available <i>must be submitted and approved in order to renew hand certification</i>	February 2026
Hand Surgery Self-Assessments – Internet-Based Administration	April 1 – May 18, 2026
Deadline – Hand Surgery Continuous Certification Registration Form Due	June 15, 2026
Self-Assessment Results available	July 2026
Hand Subspecialty Certificates mailed in the year of certificate expiration	August 2026

Please continue below for specific situations in 2026. If you have further questions, please contact the Board at hand@abplasticsurgery.org.

For diplomates with Hand Surgery subspecialty certificates expiring in 2026:

The eight available Self-Assessments *in the Hand module* (2019-2026) must be successfully completed by the end of the 2026 administration. If you hold a time-limited primary Plastic Surgery certificate, you may have already completed some of these. Be sure to always choose the Hand module. You must also complete your Hand Surgery Continuous Certification form and associated fee in order to recertify.

For diplomates with Hand Surgery subspecialty certificates expiring in 2027:

You may complete your Hand Surgery Continuous Certification Form and fee this year, in addition to the available Self-Assessment activities. However, your recertification will not be complete until *next April* in 2027 with your final Self-Assessment Activity.

For diplomates with Hand Surgery subspecialty certificates that expired in 2025:

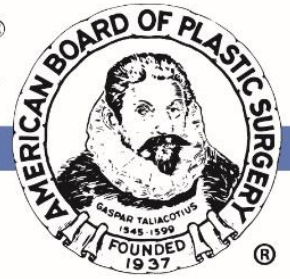
You may re-enter Hand Surgery subspecialty certification by completing the form posted, in addition to the eight available Self-Assessments in April. There has been a break in certification, but upon successful completion of the form and all assessments, a new certificate will be issued dated April 2026.

For diplomates who hold a primary Plastic Surgery Lifetime Certificate (certified before 1995):

The eight available Self-Assessments in the Hand module will be administered in a single year, opening April 1st. You must successfully complete all available throughout the month of April. Your Hand Surgery Continuous Certification form and associated fee are also required to recertify.

For diplomates who successfully completed the 200-question CC Exam between 2019-2021:

If you completed the full Continuous Certification Exam in the Hand Module during only the years 2019, 2020, or 2021, you have already met your examination component and can utilize that towards your Hand Surgery subspecialty certificate. Please check the box indicating this under #26 of the Hand Surgery Continuous Certification form. This form and payment are still required.



Email is the primary source of communication between you and the Board. Be sure the Board has your current email address listed in your online physician profile and we suggest you check email frequently. You will be notified by email for incomplete or incorrect submission of material.

Hand Surgery Recertification Exam Booklet of Information

Review the 2026 Hand Surgery Continuous Certification Booklet of Information, which is posted to the ABPS Website. The booklet includes detailed instructions for completion of the Hand Surgery certification process. Carefully read the entire Booklet of Information.

Subspecialty Certification Fee

Credit card payment of \$500.00 with Visa, Master Card or American Express submitted after finalization of the online registration form.

State/Province Medical Licenses [Upload as a PDF](#)

Upload a photocopy of your **current**, valid, full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the State/Province where you are currently practicing, as well as any other states in which you are licensed to practice. The state medical license must be valid at the time of the April examination and indicate an expiration date. If the medical license will expire prior to the April examination, it is your responsibility to forward the renewal as soon as it is received.

Appointment/Reappointment Letters [Upload as a PDF](#)

Upload a copy of your appointment/reappointment letter(s) verifying your hospital privileges in plastic surgery and/or hand surgery from every hospital. All hospital appointments must be listed on your registration. Privileges held exclusively in outpatient facilities are not acceptable.

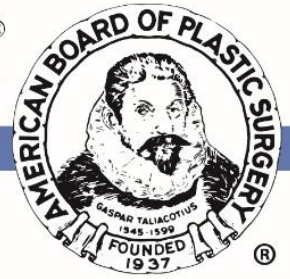
Outpatient Surgical Facility Accreditation [Upload as a PDF](#)

List all outpatient surgical facilities at which you operate. Upload current accreditation certificates or documentation for all non-hospital outpatient surgical facilities (e.g. QuadA, AAAHC, State, or other CMS-approved accreditation). A valid certificate or letter from the accrediting organization must be uploaded for each non-hospital based facility listed. Documentation is not required for hospital-based surgery centers accredited by the Joint Commission but the facility and accrediting organization must be identified on the application.

Letters verifying surgical privileges at outpatient facilities are not acceptable in lieu of accreditation certificates.

Peer Review Evaluations

Enter the name, title and email address of three peers. A secure link will be emailed to your peers to complete an evaluation for you that will be submitted electronically to the Board Office. **Peer Evaluations are due by the form deadline.** You can check the Hand tab in your physician profile on the Board's website to verify that the Peer Evaluations have been completed or to send reminders. The status of the online forms will update automatically to complete as they are received.



At least one evaluation must be completed by the Chief of Surgery or Chief of Staff at your primary hospital where you perform the majority of your hand cases. The other two evaluations must be from two hand surgeons who are familiar with your work.

Professional Issue Questions

If you respond YES to any question in this section, you are required to provide a detailed written explanation in the text box or in a letter uploaded as a PDF file. Uploading documentation is optional if the text box is completed.

Change in Contact Information

It is imperative that you inform the Board Office immediately of any change in your mailing address and/or email. This can be done by logging in to your profile screen on the Board's website.

Board Office Policies and Reminders

- Diplomates with incomplete materials will be notified by email.
- Incorrect or incomplete submissions (document uploads) may result in a Missing Items Fee.
- Subspecialty Certification Fees are accepted only by credit card – VISA, Master Card or American Express.

Should you have any questions after complete review of the above, you may contact the Board Office at 215-587-9322 or hand@abplasticsurgery.org.