

YOUR SURGEON IS CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY



PROCESS AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION

The process for certification includes a chronological series of components with specific requirements in the areas of education, direct patient care, and examinations.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- Must have graduated from an accredited medical school.
- Must have completed graduate general surgical training in an accredited residency program in the United States or Canada.
- Must have successfully completed colon and rectal surgical training in an accredited residency program in the United States or Canada.
- Must have obtained sufficient experience in the diagnosis, treatment, and surgical management of diseases of the anus, rectum, and colon as deemed adequate by the ABCRS.
- Must have a detailed colorectal operative experience record and recommendations from training program directors for ABCRS review.

EXAMINATIONS IN GENERAL SURGERY

- Must have successfully completed the written *Qualifying* examination and the oral *Certifying* examination of the American Board of Surgery (all surgeons applying for certification from the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery must first be certified as general surgeons).

EXAMINATIONS IN COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

- Must have successfully completed written *Qualifying* examination which assesses knowledge of the diagnosis, treatment, and surgical management of diseases of the anus, rectum, and colon.
- Must have successfully completed the oral *Certifying* examination that tests their judgment and decision-making skills in managing patients with colon and rectal disease. Candidates are interviewed by prominent colon and rectal surgeons who evaluate their ability to diagnose and treat colon and rectal surgical problems and determine if the candidate should be granted certification.

CONTINUOUS CERTIFICATION

- To continue their board certification, surgeons must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to professionalism, continuing education, and practice improvement as well as completing ongoing assessments of current surgical knowledge in the field of colon and rectal surgery. Diplomates certified prior to 1990 are not required to participate in the continuous certification process.

BOARD CERTIFICATION IN COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

Board certification is a voluntary process, and one that is very different from medical licensure. Obtaining a medical license sets the minimum competency requirements to diagnose and treat patients; it is not specialty specific.

The surgeon who has attained certification from the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery must first be certified by the American Board of Surgery (ABS). A colon and rectal certified surgeon not only is proficient in the field of general surgery, but also has expertise in the diagnosis and comprehensive management of patients in the following areas:

ANORECTAL CONDITIONS

- Hemorrhoids
- Fissures
- Abscesses/Fistulas

COLORECTAL AND ANAL TUMORS

- Colon and rectal cancer screening
- Cancer
- Polyps
- Hereditary tumor syndromes
 - Familial polyposis
 - Hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer

DIVERTICULITIS/DIVERTICULOSIS

ENDOSCOPY OF THE COLON AND RECTUM

- Rigid and flexible sigmoidoscopy
- Colonoscopy
- Endoscopic polypectomy

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

- Ulcerative colitis
- Crohn's disease

PHYSIOLOGIC TESTS (INTESTINAL AND ANORECTAL)

For evaluation and management of:

- Anal incontinence
- Anal rectal pain
- Constipation
- Diarrhea
- Rectal prolapse
- Anal sphincter and pelvic floor

LAPAROSCOPIC COLON RESECTION

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