

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

SURGEON CERTIFICATION

No doubt you may have heard that you should ask about board certification of your potential surgeon, certification of the surgical facility and anesthesia provider. Within the following you will find the definitions and explanations to help you understand the qualifications of the people assuming the responsibility of your surgery and anesthesia.

*Appropriate board certification assures that the surgeon is a **member** of a group who has met strict educational and examination criteria to provide the highest standards of safety for their patients. The American Board of Medical Specialist (ABMS) has approved the following sub-specialties:*

Allergy and Immunology	Orthopedic Surgery
Anesthesiology	Otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat)
Colon Rectal Surgery	Pathology
Dermatology	Pediatrics
Emergency Medicine	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Family Practice	Plastic Surgery
Internal Medicine	Preventive Medicine
Medical Genetics	Psychiatry and Neurology
Neurological Surgery	Radiology
Nuclear Medicine	Surgery
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Thoracic Surgery
Ophthalmology	Urology

If you call the American Board of Medical Specialists at 1-800-776-2378 (www.abms.org), you can check to see if the surgeon you are interviewing is board certified in the specialty of Plastic Surgery. Additionally, you may want to call your local hospital to see if your surgeon has privileges to perform the proposed procedures in the hospital. You may also want to talk with the recovery room nurses to hear their opinions about surgeons and their procedures.