HOW TO DISPLAY YOUR CREDENTIALS

WHY HAVE A STANDARD FOR LISTING CREDENTIALS?

Having a standard way to list credentials ensures that everyone — from the healthcare industry to patients, to legislators — understands the value and weight that your education and training holds.

WHAT IS THE STANDARD WAY TO LIST CREDENTIALS:
- Highest earned degree
- Licensure
- State designations or requirements
- National certifications
- Awards and honors
- Other recognitions

Your education degree should come first, as it is a “permanent” credential, meaning it cannot be taken away except under extreme circumstances.

The next two credentials (licensure and state designations/requirements) are required for you to practice. National certification is sometimes voluntary, and awards, honors, and other recognitions are always voluntary.

Typically, those with multiple credentials will limit them to the most important. When listing your credentials, focus on the key degrees, licenses and certificates that apply to a particular situation. By limiting the number of credentials you include, you can ensure the most important credentials stand out.

EXAMPLE:
Jane Doe, ND, MPH, LAc, LPN

WHEN TO DISPLAY YOUR CREDENTIALS?
Use the credentials required by your state for your area of practice on legal documents such as prescriptions.

Use all relevant credentials to your speaking engagement, whether it is for a professional presentation or a media opportunity, or when providing testimony before a legislative body.

WHEN SHOULD YOU REFRAIN FROM DISPLAYING YOUR CREDENTIALS?
Refrain from using your credentials when starting your name with "Dr."

EXAMPLE:
Dr. Jane Doe
or
Jane Doe, ND, MPH, LAc, LPN

ND VS. NMD
States have different laws on which credential you can use with your license. Some states require that you use "NMD" even if your degree is "ND," and vice versa. Please check with your licensing board to verify which credential you can legally use.

WHEN TO USE "BOARD CERTIFIED"
Licensed NDs have the opportunity to take on additional training in a specific area of study to become board certified. Board certification shows that one is expert in a specific area of medicine. It is only appropriate to use the phrase "Board Certified" once a licensed ND has taken on this additional training.

EXAMPLES OF BOARD CERTIFICATIONS IN NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
- DHANP: Diplomate of the Homeopathic Academy of Naturopathic Physicians
- FABNE: Fellow of the American Board of Naturopathic Endocrinology
- FABNG: Fellow of the American Board of Naturopathic Gastroenterology
- FABNO: Fellow of the American Board of Naturopathic Oncology
- FABNP: Fellow to the American Board of Naturopathic Pediatrics

Note: Passing the NPLEX Board exam does not mean that you are Board Certified. NPLEX is a national licensing exam not a Board certification.