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# ***CONTINUING BOARD CERTIFICATION: VISION FOR THE FUTURE COMMISSION***

**FINAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE ABMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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President and Chief Executive Officer  
American Board of Medical Specialties



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# ABOUT THE COMMISSION

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- Collaborative effort that brought together multiple stakeholders to envision the future of continuing board certification.
  - Independent body of 27 individuals representing diverse stakeholders
  - Physicians, health care leadership, academic medicine, CME professionals, group practices, state/national medical associations, ABMS Member Board executives, specialty societies, health advocacy groups representing patients, families, and the public
- Planning Committee drafted the Commission's charge, chose Commission members, and developed the questions for the stakeholder survey.
- The Commission gathered and considered stakeholder input to produce the set of recommendations in the Final Report.
  - Series of meetings February 2018 – January 2019
  - Public comment invited at key stages
- For more information: [www.visioninitiative.org](http://www.visioninitiative.org)

# ABOUT THE COMMISSION

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- Commission's charge:
  - Gather data and assess the current status of board certification;
  - Gather information about assessment, learning, and dissemination and implementation science;
  - Develop findings and conclusions;
  - Make recommendations regarding principles, frameworks and program models for the continuing board certification system that are responsive to the needs of those who rely on the system and are relevant, meaningful and of value to those who hold the credential; and
  - Deliver its independent, publicly available, report to the ABMS by February 2019.
- What is the Vision Commission Report?
  - Primary audience: ABMS Board of Directors
  - Secondary audience: ABMS Community
  - The Commission submitted its final report to the ABMS BOD February 12, 2019.
  - This final set of recommendations marks the end of the Commission's work.



# COMMISSION REPORT

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- ABMS and the ABMS Member Boards thank the Commission for their dedication and commitment to advancing continuing certification
- Commission recommendations will be considered during the ABMS BOD meeting February 24-27, 2019
- Public response from ABMS BOD following the meeting
  - Multifaceted, collaborative implementation plan

# COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS (14)

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- Foundational Recommendation
- Short-term and Intermediate Recommendations (10)
- Aspirational Recommendations (3)

# FOUNDATIONAL RECOMMENDATION

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- Continuing certification must integrate professionalism, assessment, lifelong learning and advancing practice to determine the continuing certification status of a diplomate.

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# SHORT-TERM AND INTERMEDIATE RECOMMENDATIONS



# ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATION

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- Continuing certification must change to incorporate longitudinal and other innovative formative assessment strategies that support learning, identify knowledge and skills gaps, and help diplomates stay current. The ABMS Boards must offer an alternative to burdensome highly-secure, point-in-time examinations of knowledge.



# DIPLOMATE COMMUNICATION RECOMMENDATION

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- The ABMS Boards must regularly communicate with their diplomates about the standards for the specialty and encourage feedback about the program.

## RECOMMENDATION ON CONSISTENT PROCESSES AND REQUIREMENTS

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- The ABMS and the ABMS Boards must have consistent processes and requirements for continuing certification that are fair, equitable, transparent, effective and efficient.

# RECOMMENDATION FOR DIPLOMATES WHO ARE MULTI-SPECIALTY

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- The ABMS Boards must enable multi-specialty and subspecialty diplomates to remain certified across multiple ABMS Boards without duplication of effort.

# RECOMMENDATION ON INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

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- ABMS and the ABMS Boards must facilitate and encourage independent research to build on the existing evidence base about the value of continuing certification.

# RECOMMENDATION ON CERTIFICATION STATUS

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- The ABMS Boards must change a diplomate's certification status when continuing certification standards are not met.\*

\*Applies to time-limited certificate holders only.

# REMEDICATION PATHWAYS RECOMMENDATION

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- The ABMS Boards must have clearly defined remediation pathways to enable diplomates to meet continuing certification standards in advance of and following any loss of certification.

## RECOMMENDATION ON ENCOURAGING ALL DIPLOMATES TO PARTICIPATE

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- ABMS and the ABMS Boards must make publicly available the certification history of all diplomates, including their participation in the continuing certification process.
- The ABMS Boards must facilitate voluntary re-engagement into the continuing certification process for lifetime certificate holders and others not currently participating in the continuing certification process.

# RECOMMENDATION ON COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS

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- The ABMS Boards must comply with all ABMS certification and organizational standards, including financial stewardship and ensuring that diverse groups of practicing physicians and the public voice are represented.



# RECOMMENDATION ON USE OF THE CREDENTIAL

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- ABMS must demonstrate and communicate that continuing certification has value, meaning and purpose in the health care environment.
  - a. Hospitals, health systems, payers and other health care organizations can independently decide what factors are used in credentialing and privileging decisions.
  - b. ABMS must inform these organizations that continuing certification should not be the only criterion used in these decisions and these organizations should use a wide portfolio of criteria in these decisions.
  - c. ABMS must encourage hospitals, health systems, payers and other health care organizations to not deny credentialing or privileging to a physician solely on the basis of certification status.

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# ASPIRATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS



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# PROFESSIONALISM RECOMMENDATION

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- ABMS and the ABMS Boards must seek input from other stakeholder organizations to develop consistent approaches to evaluate professionalism and professional standing while ensuring due process for the diplomate when questions of professionalism arise.

# ADVANCING PRACTICE RECOMMENDATION

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- ABMS and the ABMS Boards should collaborate with specialty societies, the CME/CPD community and other expert stakeholders to develop the infrastructure to support learning activities that produce data-driven advances in clinical practice. The ABMS Boards must ensure that their continuing certification programs recognize and document participation in a wide range of quality assessment activities in which diplomates already engage.

## RECOMMENDATION ON COLLABORATION AND DATA SHARING

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- The ABMS Boards must collaborate with professional and/or CME/CPD organizations to share data and information to guide and support diplomate engagement in continuing certification.

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# QUESTIONS?

Please contact:  
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