



## American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders

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## Easy to Digest

January 2014

Happy New Year and congratulations! As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, you are now a board **certified** specialist in swallowing and swallowing disorders. With ASHA's approval of the change from specialty recognition to specialty certification, all current holders of specialty recognition were grandfathered into specialty certification. You can now begin using your new credential: BCS-S (Board Certified Specialist - Swallowing). And our board is now called the American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (AB-SSD). You'll see the new name on the website ([www.swallowingdisorders.org](http://www.swallowingdisorders.org)) along with the announcement about our new credentials.

Our standards were higher than the minimum standards set forth by ASHA for specialty certification in all but one area. If you are in, or plan to renew in, the Academic/Administrative track in 2014, you will need 100 hours/year of clinical contact in the three years prior to renewal (that is our current standard), but will need 450 hours total in the 5 years before you renew. The transition grid ([click here for a copy](#)) shows the requirements for each year for renewal.

The key to making specialty certification meaningful is the marketing you do - to your colleagues, physicians, administration, etc. ASHA and the Specialty Board will send some materials during the first quarter to help with your efforts. ASHA is also developing new certificates to reflect specialty certification and those should be ready during the first quarter.

It's important that each of us helps to expand the specialty certification program so that consumers can find us when they need us. Talk with your colleagues who you think would be good candidates for specialty certification. Encourage them to visit our web site for more information. Let us know if you have any questions.

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