



# American Board of Medical Specialties

*Higher standards. Better care.®*

American Board of Medical Specialties  
353 North Clark Street, Suite 1400  
Chicago, IL 60654  
T: (312) 436-2600  
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[www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org)

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To Whom It May Concern:

American Board of Medical Specialties® (ABMS®) considers the provision of physician specialty board certification data as an important part of its ongoing mission and views the credentialing process and the credentials certification sub-process as a foundational component of patient safety.

ABMS takes the validity, credibility, reliability and integrity of its primary equivalent board certification data very seriously. We carefully review what products and organizations will be allowed to distribute ABMS board certification data based upon concerns for patient safety and compliance with The Joint Commission, NCQA and URAC accreditation requirements.

Therefore, ABMS designates the ABMS Solutions products listed below with the Official ABMS Display Agent status. Designation of the Official ABMS Display Agent status as indicated became effective initially April 1, 2004. The designation of Official ABMS Display Agent status is subject to continued compliance with program guidelines and is subject to audit by ABMS. ABMS Solutions will continue to serve as one of the providers of primary source equivalent ABMS specialty board certification data when such data is delivered through the following ABMS Solutions authorized products and services and no others when provided in accordance with requirements of the Official ABMS Display Agent Program:

- ❖ CertiFACTS Online®
- ❖ ABMS Certification Profile Service®
- ❖ ABMS Direct Connect® *Select*
- ❖ ABMS Custom Data Services®

Designation as an Official Display Agent is presented on a product or application specific, not entity-wide, basis.

As a condition of maintaining its Official ABMS Display Agent designation, ABMS Solutions agrees to abide by ABMS guidelines applicable to such designees, which are intended to protect the security and quality of ABMS board certification data.

ABMS board certification data may be considered as Primary Source Verification (PSV) only if delivered from the specific products and services approved for Official ABMS Display Agent status. These products vary in format, features, functionality, intended application and data update frequency. Users of these products should determine the most appropriate sources for their unique needs.



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ABMS data may nevertheless be available from other sources that have not been designated as Official ABMS Display Agent sources. ABMS, however, is not currently able to validate (according to the minimum safeguards deemed necessary) that these non-designated sources use processes and procedures that are sufficient to maintain the security and integrity of ABMS board certification data.

ABMS recommends that persons or entities using ABMS data, particularly for physician credentialing and privileging purposes or purposes involving patient safety, rely on products and services directly from ABMS or from ABMS licensed products displaying the designation of *Official ABMS Display Agent*.

ABMS will publish an updated list of Official ABMS Display Agents to accrediting bodies as changes are made to that list.

Thank you for supporting the promotion of quality healthcare in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Michael".

Jennifer Michael  
Chief Operating Officer  
American Board of Medical Specialties

Inquiries regarding the Official ABMS Display Agent program and other credentialing and business related questions may be directed to:

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