

# Focused Practice Designations

Updated August 2021

The focused practice designation, approved by ABMS in March 2017, recognizes the value that physicians who focus some or all their practice within a specific area of a specialty and/or subspecialty can provide to improving health care. It reflects an evolution of practice that occurs following initial certification and is relevant to continuing certification. For example, a physician may focus his or her practice on work in the hospital setting or concentrate on specific patient populations, conditions, and/or specialized procedures that emerge as medicine evolves. Focused practice designation enables the ABMS Member Boards to set standards for, assess, and acknowledge additional expertise that physicians gain through clinical experience, and may include formal training. The following table summarizes the boards with approved focused practice designations.

FOCUSED PRACTICE DESIGNATION					
American Board	Area of Focused Practice	Active Certification Requirement	Year Approved by ABMS	First Issued	Duration Years*
<a href="#">Emergency Medicine</a>	Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography	Emergency Medicine	2018	††	10
<a href="#">Family Medicine</a>	Hospital Medicine	Family Medicine	2017	2010 <sup>1</sup>	Continuing
<a href="#">Internal Medicine</a>	Hospital Medicine	Internal Medicine	2017	2010 <sup>1</sup>	Continuing
<a href="#">Neurological Surgery</a>	Central Nervous System Endovascular Surgery	Neurological Surgery	2017	2020	10
	Neurological Critical Care		2018	††	10
	Pediatric Neurological Surgery		2017	2018	10
Obstetrics and Gynecology	<a href="#">Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery</a>	Obstetrics and Gynecology	2019	††	Continuing
	<a href="#">Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology</a>		2017	2018	Continuing
<a href="#">Pathology</a>	Clinical Chemistry	Pathology- Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical OR Pathology-Clinical	2017	2020	Continuing
	Clinical Microbiology				
Psychiatry and Neurology	Central Nervous System Endovascular Surgery	Neurology	2018		Continuing
Radiology	Central Nervous System Endovascular Surgery	Diagnostic Radiology OR Interventional and Diagnostic Radiology, and Neuroradiology Surgery	2018	††	Continuing
Surgery	Metabolic Bariatric Surgery	Surgery	2019	††	Continuing

\* May be tied to duration of associated certificate.

†† Designation not yet issued.

<sup>1</sup> The Hospital Medicine designation originally approved as a pilot program in 2010 and was formally approved by ABMS in 2017.