



**American Board
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABMS Establishes New Subspecialty Certificate in Hospice and Palliative Medicine

EVANSTON, IL – October 6, 2006– The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has announced the addition of a new subspecialty certificate in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. The new certification was approved during the recent ABMS Assembly Meeting and marks the first time ten ABMS Member Boards have collaborated in the offering of certification in one specific area.

Recognizing a shared interest in this area of care, the ABMS Member Boards of Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Psychiatry and Neurology, Radiology and Surgery are co-sponsoring the certification which is being offered to physicians who currently hold specialty or subspecialty certification by one of their Boards. Organizations devoted to advancing Hospice and Palliative Medicine in the United States submitted a joint request to several ABMS Member Boards to consider developing subspecialty certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. These same organizations provided guidance in developing the examination.

The subspecialty certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine is renewable every ten years, pending successful completion of certain education, training and examination requirements. The first examination in this area will be administered in 2008.

“We are thrilled to have our area of care recognized as an ABMS subspecialty,” said Ronald Schonwetter, President of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. “Providing certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine offers another dimension to the career paths of emerging and established physicians. It also opens a dialogue for improving how hospices, hospitals and nursing homes care for patients with chronic progressive illnesses as well as those near the end of life.”

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“Adding Hospice and Palliative Medicine as an ABMS subspecialty is a great complement to so many of our areas of specialty medicine,” said Stephen H. Miller, MD, MPH, ABMS President and CEO. “Physicians who choose to become certified in Hospice and Palliative Medicine are formally showing their commitment to providing quality care in assessing and managing the physical, psychological and spiritual suffering faced by patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families.”

For more information about ABMS and the Member Boards of ABMS, visit www.abms.org.

About ABMS

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), a not-for-profit organization, represents 24 approved medical specialty boards which establish and maintain high standards for physician certification and the delivery of safe, quality medical care by certified physician specialists. Visit www.abms.org or call (847) 491-9091.

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