

The American Board of Medical Specialties® (ABMS) has a dual focus to serve both the public and the medical profession by improving the quality of health care through setting professional standards for lifelong certification in partnership with Member Boards. ABMS has incorporated public perspectives in its decision-making for nearly 50 years. Public members serve on numerous ABMS committees:

- ABMS Board of Directors (ABMS BOD)
- Accountability and Resolution Committee
- Committee on Certification
- Committee on Continuing Certification
- Database and Information Technology Advisory Committee
- Ethics and Professionalism Committee
- Executive Committee
- Finance Committee
- Health Policy and Strategy Committee
- Research and Education Foundation
- Stakeholder Council

Public members on ABMS committees represent patients and individuals with a broad range of experience in patient advocacy, administration, education, business, regulatory policy, and law. Additionally, public members serve an important role on the Stakeholder Council. This advisory body to the ABMS BOD brings together individuals with diverse perspectives to discuss critical issues that ABMS may help address through board certification programs.

Read more about public members and their role in the [Spring 2024 edition of ABMS Insights](#) on the [ABMS website](#).

Highlights of Public Member Involvement

1975

- First public member appointed to the ABMS BOD.
- Up to three seats designated on the ABMS BOD for public members.

2011

- Six seats designated for public members to serve on the ABMS BOD.
- Seats added for public members to serve on ABMS standing committees, ad hoc committees, and task forces.
- Third-party comment period initiated to solicit perspectives from patients and the public on proposals for new specialties and subspecialties.

2018

- Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission established; seven of the 27 members are public members. The Vision Commission brought together varied stakeholders to make recommendations about the future system of continuing certification.
- Stakeholder Council established, which included six public members, to ensure the decisions of the ABMS BOD are grounded in an understanding of the perspectives, concerns, and interests of the multiple constituents impacted by ABMS' work. Much of its initial work revolves around the recommendations in the Vision Commission report.

2021

- Following recommendations in a report from the Vision Commission, Standards for Continuing Certification were drafted and subsequently reviewed by more than 100 stakeholders representing specialty physicians, state medical societies, health plans, academic medicine, continuing medical education, and credentialing bodies, as well as patient advocates and patients.

2024

- Up to 22 dedicated seats for public members across ABMS' governance bodies.

Let's start a conversation about what matters to you.
advocacy.abms.org