



THE AMERICAN BOARD *of* PEDIATRICS
Certifying excellence in pediatrics – for a healthier tomorrow

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Guidelines for Stating Your Certification Status

Congratulations on your recent achievement of Board Certification or Maintenance of Certification in General Pediatrics or a pediatric subspecialty. Many diplomates include information about their certification status on letterhead, business cards and other materials. Board Certification is an important marker of your competence and skill, and the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) encourages you to showcase this accomplishment with your patients, your colleagues and the public.

We thought it would be useful to provide some specific guidelines to accurately state your ABP Certification. We ask that you follow these guidelines throughout your career.

ABP's official policy is as follows:

Diplomates of the ABP must accurately state their certification status at all times. This includes descriptions in curriculum vitae, advertisements, publications, directories, and letterheads. Diplomates with expired time-limited certification or those whose certification is revoked may not claim board certification by the ABP and must revise all descriptions of their qualifications accordingly. When a physician misrepresents certification status, the ABP may notify local credentialing bodies, licensing bodies, and others, as well as impose an administrative penalty or take legal action.

Your certification status is reported publicly on the ABP's Web site, www.abp.org and through the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), which establishes standards for physician specialty certification for its 24 member boards, including the ABP. **If you would like to include an ABP logo noting your certification status on your website or other materials, you may find it under "resources" at www.MyCertifiedPediatrician.org.**

The ABP does not mandate the specifics of how diplomates state their certification, except to say diplomates should not state or imply that they are certified if their certification has expired. If you have multiple certifications and allow one of them to lapse, you should revise your public materials (letterhead, business cards, advertisements, etc.) to reflect those certifications that are currently valid. For example, if your original general pediatric certification has lapsed and you are now certified in a subspecialty, only the subspecialty certification should be stated.

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Following are examples of accurate statements of certification:

- ✓ Once you have successfully passed your initial certification exam or renewed your certification through the ABP's Maintenance of Certification program, you may represent that you are "ABP Board Certified in (general pediatrics and/or your subspecialty)" or a "Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics:"
 - John Doe, MD, ABP Board Certified in General Pediatrics
 - John Doe, MD, a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics

- ✓ If you maintain more than one current and valid certificate, you may indicate that you are Board Certified in both areas:
 - John Doe, MD, ABP Certified in General Pediatrics and Pediatric Cardiology

- ✓ You may mention your certification was issued by The American Board of Pediatrics. For example, if you hold a subspecialty certificate in pediatric cardiology, you may represent yourself as:
 - John Doe, MD, Board Certified in Pediatric Cardiology by the American Board of Pediatrics

- ✓ Important: Please be sure to correctly state your certification status. In addition, pay attention to your group practice listings. A blanket statement that everyone in a group is Board Certified may be misleading if multiple specialties are listed and some group members are certified in certain specialties and others are not currently certified. The ABP expects that certifications will be listed individually or stated in a way that is not misleading. Aside from accuracy and ABP requirements, inaccurate statements of certification may create embarrassment or legal issues. The ABP understands that maintaining currency in stating the certification status of groups of physicians may not be easy. We encourage you to work with your colleagues to be sure the certifications you represent to the public are current and accurate.

Feel free to contact the ABP whenever you have a question about stating your certification. Call [919.929.0461](tel:919.929.0461) or email: abpeds@abpeds.org.