



# Accreditation and certification

## Certification

### What does it mean to be certified?

Doctors that are board-certified have finished their education and training, and have passed tests given by a certifying board. Doctors take these exams in a specialty in which they have received advanced training.

They're also required by most specialty boards to continue learning throughout their careers. They need this education to become re-certified or to maintain their certification.

### Who certifies my doctor?

Depending on what type of care provider you see, your doctor may be certified by a different group or board. Here's a list of groups that generally certify your care providers:

- Physicians (MDs)
  - [American Board of Medical Specialties \(ABMS\)](#)
- Doctors of Osteopathy (DOs)
  - [American Osteopathic Association \(AOA\)](#)
  - [American Board of Medical Specialties \(ABMS\)](#)
- Advanced Practice Nurses (includes nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and clinical nurse specialists)
  - [American Nurses Credentialing Center](#)
  - [American Academy of Nurse Practitioners](#)
  - [Pediatric Nurses Certification Board](#)
  - [American College of Nurse-Midwives Certification Council](#)
- Physicians Assistants
  - [National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants](#)
- Podiatrists (DPM)

- American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery
- American Board of Podiatric Medicine
- Dentists-Oral Maxillofacial Surgery
  - American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

## Accreditation

### What does it mean to be accredited?

If a facility is accredited, it means its services have met nationally recognized standards for delivering quality care.

HealthPartners accreditation is reviewed every three years. Quality improvement staff review any issues regarding the hospital's quality of service and take action as needed.

### Who decides if a facility is accredited?

There are many different agencies that determine health care accreditation. For hospitals the most common agency is the [Joint Commission of Healthcare Organizations \(Joint Commission\)](#).

AAAASF	<a href="#">American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities</a>
AAAHC	<a href="#">Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.</a>
ACHC	<a href="#">Accreditation Commission for Health Care</a>
AOA	<a href="#">American Osteopathic Association</a>
ACR	<a href="#">American College of Radiology</a>

CABC	<a href="#">Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers</a>
CARF	<a href="#">Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities</a>
CARF-CCAC	<a href="#">Continuing Care Accreditation Program</a>
CHAP	<a href="#">Community Health Accreditation Partner</a>
COA	<a href="#"><u>Council on Accreditation</u></a>
DNVGL	<a href="#">DNV GL Healthcare USA, Inc.</a>
HFAP	<a href="#">HealthCare Facilities Accreditation Program</a>
IAC	<a href="#">Intersocietal Accreditation Commission</a>
Joint Commission	<a href="#">The Joint Commission</a>