



American Society of Addiction Medicine

4601 NORTH PARK AVENUE • UPPER ARCADE SUITE 101 • CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815-4520

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December 13, 2008

Dear ASAM-Certified Physician:

This is an important communication to all physicians who have been certified as Physician Specialists in Addiction Medicine by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM).

Most of you have been keeping up with the fact that while ASAM has been certifying individual physicians (over 4,200 in over 22 years), ASAM has expended considerable effort and resources to assist in the establishment of the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM). The incorporation of ABAM in 2007 as an independent certification board was the first official step toward seeking American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) recognition of Addiction Medicine. You may review ASAM News for details on ABAM and The ABAM Foundation by visiting the following web site: <http://www.asam.org/ABAM.html>

The ASAM examination is widely respected for the breadth and quality of the questions. Since 1992, the examination has been developed by the ASAM Examination Committee under a contract with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). Most consider the ASAM examination to be of equal quality and rigor to examinations offered by the member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Certification by the American Society of Addiction Medicine is described in federal and state statutes as a credential that provides a physician with the entrée into various rights and privileges. That is a tremendous value to holders of the ASAM certificate and we aim to maintain the value of that certificate. Thus, while the re-certification examination will be administered by ABAM beginning in 2010, the physician who becomes a Diplomate of ABAM will be able to simultaneously say that he or she is an "ASAM-certified physician" in order to meet all statutory language and the credentials language of managed care panels.

You have earned and can retain your ASAM certificate. For those of you who are due to be re-certified after 2008, the re-certification examination will be administered by ABAM, not ASAM. ASAM will not be certifying physicians after transfer of the examination to ABAM, but will keep a roster of physicians who are "ASAM-certified." Once certified or re-certified by ABAM, you will retain your status as an

PHONE
E-MAIL: [EMAIL](mailto:ASAM@ASAM.ORG)

3815
ASAM.ORG

Plan to attend ASAM's 40th Annual Medical-Scientific Conference, April 30 - May 3, 2009 - New Orleans, Louisiana

ASAM-certified physician, because **ASAM will add to its roster of ASAM-certified physicians the names of all those who are certified by ABAM. ASAM will take every step possible to assure that your ASAM certificate will retain its value.**

The specialty society, ASAM, will have an interest in the activities of the independent board (ABAM), and will be a sponsor of the application that ABAM submits to the ABMS after several years of intense preparation for such an application.

When ABAM makes application to the ABMS to recognize Addiction Medicine, ASAM will advocate that all physicians previously awarded ASAM-certified Physician status should be recognized as having Diplomate status by an ABMS member board. ASAM will also advocate that non-onerous pathways be established to allow ASAM-certified Physicians to become eligible for certification by an ABMS member board.

I and the members of the ASAM Board of Directors encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to become an ABAM-certified Addiction Medicine Physician now, before the date at which your ASAM certification status may require re-certification.

If you have further questions about the process of becoming ABAM-certified, now or at a future date, you may contact: Dr. Kevin Kunz, Interim President, ABAM at: email@abam.net; or Dr. James Callahan, Interim Executive Vice President, ABAM at: 978 887-7690, or at: email@abam.net

For further questions about the status of your ASAM certification, please contact Christopher Weirs, MPA, at the ASAM office at 301-656-3920 or by email at: cweir@asam.org

Sincerely,



Michael M. Miller, MD, FASAM, FAPA
President and Board Chair
American Society of Addiction Medicine