

What is the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery?

The American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery was founded in 1935 to certify colon and rectal surgeons who have met specific educational requirements and completed an examination process. A major reason for establishing the specialty board was to identify colon and rectal surgeons who demonstrate a certain standard of excellence.

The ABCRS is an independent, non-profit organization with worldwide recognition. It is one of 24 certifying boards that are members of the American Board of Medical Specialties. Diplomates of the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery are distinguished surgeons involved in patient care, education, and research throughout the United States, Canada, and abroad.



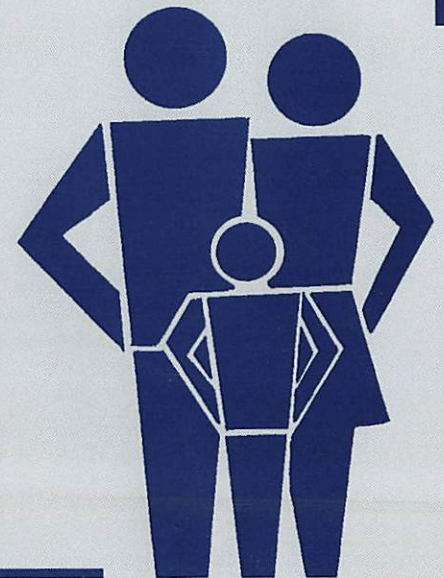
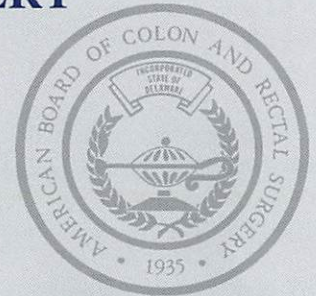
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**YOUR SURGEON
IS CERTIFIED
BY THE
AMERICAN
BOARD OF
COLON
AND
RECTAL
SURGERY**



What You Should Know

The surgeon who has attained certification from the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery (ABCRS) must first be certified by the American Board of Surgery (ABS). Having attained certification in both fields, a colon and rectal certified specialist is proficient in the field of general surgery, but has also acquired particular expertise in diagnosis as well as medical and surgical management (including preoperative and postoperative care) in the following areas:

- **Anorectal conditions**
 - Hemorrhoids
 - Fissures
 - Abscesses
 - Fistulas
- **Colorectal and anal tumors**
 - Colon and rectal cancer screening
 - Cancer
 - Polyps
 - Hereditary tumor syndromes
 - Familial polyposis
 - Hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer
- **Diverticulitis/Diverticulosis**
- **Endoscopy of the colon and rectum**
 - Rigid and flexible sigmoidoscopy
 - Colonoscopy
 - Endoscopic polypectomy
- **Inflammatory bowel disease**
 - Ulcerative colitis
 - Crohn's disease
- **Laparoscopic colon resection**
- **Physiologic tests (Intestinal and anorectal)**
 - For evaluation and management of:
 - Anal incontinence
 - Anal rectal pain
 - Constipation
 - Diarrhea
 - Rectal prolapse
 - Anal sphincter and pelvic floor

Process and Qualifications For Board Certification

The process for certification includes a chronological series of components with specific requirements in the areas of education, direct patient care, and examinations.

Education

- Must have graduated from an accredited medical school.
- Must have completed graduate general surgical training in an accredited residency program in the United States or Canada.
- Must have successfully completed colon and rectal surgical training in an accredited residency program in the United States or Canada.
- Must have obtained sufficient experience in the diagnosis, treatment, and surgical management of diseases of the anus, rectum, and colon as deemed adequate by the ABCRS.
- Must have a detailed colorectal operative experience record and recommendations from training program directors for ABCRS review.

Examinations in General Surgery

- Must have successfully completed the written *Qualifying* examination and the oral *Certifying* examination of the American Board of Surgery (all surgeons applying for certification from the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery must first be certified as general surgeons).

Examinations in Colon and Rectal Surgery

- Must have successfully completed a day-long written *Qualifying* examination which assesses knowledge of the diagnosis, treatment, and surgical management of diseases of the anus, rectum, and colon. This examination includes testing in radiology and pathology as these disciplines relate to colon and rectal surgery.

- Must have successfully completed the oral *Certifying* examination where each candidate is interviewed by three teams of prominent colon and rectal surgeons who evaluate the candidate's ability to diagnose and treat common and complex colon and rectal surgical problems and determine if the candidate should be granted certification.

Maintaining Certification

To be certified by the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery, the surgeon must have met the specialty's established standards by fulfilling specified educational, credentialing, and examination requirements.

Since 1990, the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery has issued certificates that are valid for ten years. Once certified, the colon and rectal surgeon who wishes to maintain certification upon expiration of the original certificate must complete a Maintenance of Certification process. Diplomates certified prior to 1990 were issued certificates with no expiration date, and they are not affected by time-limited certification.

The Maintenance of Certification process includes a credentials review to determine if the colon and rectal surgeon has continued surgical education, is respected by peers, and is active in the practice of colon and rectal surgery. Successful completion of a written examination extends the colon and rectal surgeon's certification for an additional ten years.