



The American Board of Pathology

Guidelines for Stating Certification Status

Board certification is a significant professional achievement and the American Board of Pathology (ABPath) encourages our diplomates to proudly include information about their certification status on email signatures, curriculum vitae, publications, letterheads, business cards, and in directories. It is important to state your credentials as a diplomate correctly. We ask that you follow these guidelines when stating your certification status.

Primary Certification

Certification - Once you have successfully passed the certification exam and met all other requirements for certification, you may state that you are “board certified in pathology” or “a diplomate of the American Board of Pathology.”

The following are examples of accurate statements of certification:

- Jane Doe, M.D., Diplomate of the American Board of Pathology
- Jane Doe, M.D., Board Certified in Pathology by the American Board of Pathology
- Jane Doe, M.D., Board Certified by the American Board of Pathology

Subspecialty Certifications. If you have a subspecialty certificate, you may also indicate that you are board certified in that area.

Example:

- Jane Doe, M.D., Board Certified in Pathology and Medical Microbiology

If you have only subspecialty certification through the ABPath, this must be stated in a way that does not imply primary certification in pathology. The following is an example of an accurate statement of subspecialty certification only:

- Jane Doe, M.D., Certified in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine by the American Board of Pathology

Diplomate Certification Mark Terms of Use - The ABPath diplomate certification mark is available as a free download from the ABPath’s PATHway portal for diplomates. You may not alter the tagline text or crop or distort the certification mark image. You may enlarge or reduce the size, but the proportional integrity of the mark needs to remain intact.

Five options are available for displaying the certification mark:

- the certification mark alone
- the certification mark with text on the right side (2 options)
- the certification mark with text on the bottom (2 options)

By downloading the certification mark, you agree to these terms of use.

Note: The ABPath does not authorize the use of its official logo by others, which is why the certification mark was created for your use.

ABPath Policy - The ABPath requires that diplomates of the ABPath accurately state their certification status at all times. This includes descriptions in curriculum vitae, advertisements, publications, directories, websites and letterheads. Diplomates whose time-limited certification has expired or whose certification has been revoked may not claim they are certified by the ABPath and must revise all documents accordingly. When a physician misrepresents certification status or claims they are an ABPath diplomate when they are not, the ABPath may notify local credentialing agencies, licensing bodies, and others, as well as take legal action.

Group Practice - Be careful in group practice listings. A blanket statement that all physicians in a group medical practice are certified may be misleading. Members of the practice may hold different certifications. The ABPath expects that certifications will be listed individually and in a way that is not misleading. Physicians are responsible for misleading advertising even if inadvertent.

Your certification status is reported publicly when there is a request for verification (verification form at www.abpath.org) and on the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) website www.certificationmatters.org.