

NYSED approval of PCs/PLLCs: Defining “substantial equivalent” in relation to ABMS, AOA or Royal College recognized specialties

Accreditation is a process of external review by private, not for profit organizations in which educational programs demonstrate their ability to provide current and improving quality academics to students for the public good.

Certification is a process by which an individual, person or entity, demonstrates qualifications by education and experience, and competence by mastery knowledge and its application through standardized valid testing.

Individual state approvals, and national recognition, certification, or accreditation as a certifying entity are not equivalent.

Among the questions important to consider in whether an entity is to be recognized as granting board certification recognized by our State are:

1. Is there a well-defined body of knowledge with a well-defined curriculum?
2. Is the certifying organization an independent, not for profit evaluation organization?
3. Are there a national headquarters, national meetings, and significant membership in the governing authority by individuals who are outside the discipline and others who represent the general public?
4. Does the organization develop and implement the education, training, and professional standards for specialists in the field, or a voting member of the accrediting body that does?
5. Is the entity itself recognized by a certifying body, such as CHEA, U S Department of Education, or the Board of Regents of New York State? Is there oversight of the applicant certifying entity?
6. Has the U S Department of Education, or the Board of Regents of the State of New York, certified it for deeming authority for eligibility for federal funds?
7. Is it or does it have a history of being a membership society? (status as a membership organization is NOT an indicator of independence and quality)
8. Does the organization have a history of membership or affiliation with a board, educational body, or established accreditation body before offering certification?
9. Is the certifying body's pathway to certification clearly stated, quantifiable, and based upon accredited training?
10. Is the certifying examination a validated secure testing process with valid testing psychometrics?
11. Is there a valid and uniform process of evaluating candidacy eligibility and verification of credentials?
12. Is the organization self-designated?
13. Has the organization been reviewed by the Liaison Committee for Specialty Boards?
14. Has the organization been reviewed by the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education?
15. Is there an equivalent or similar specialty recognized by ABMS, AOA, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or the College of Family Physicians of Canada?