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**Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety & Oversight Group**

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**Admin Info: 26-01-CLIA**

**DATE:** December 16, 2025

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director, Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG)

**SUBJECT:** American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS) Board of Certification in Dermatology (BCD) Approved Board Certification for the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Technical Supervisor of Dermatopathology

**Memorandum Summary**

- **Approval of New Board Certification for Technical Supervisor of Dermatopathology –** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS) Board of Certification in Dermatology (BCD) certification.

**Background:**

As part of the regulatory requirements, a laboratory must employ one or more individuals who are qualified by education and either training or experience to provide technical supervision for each of the specialties and subspecialties of service in which the laboratory performs high complexity tests or procedures. The director of a laboratory performing high complexity testing may function as the technical supervisor provided he or she meets the qualifications.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), working in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the American Board of Physician Specialties' (ABPS) application for their Board Certification in Dermatology (BCD) certification. This evaluation encompassed a detailed assessment of the examination of the ABPS' candidate qualification standards, including educational prerequisites, training and experience requirements, competency specifications, and examination methodologies.

CMS and the CDC determined that the ABPS BCD certification demonstrates equivalence to previously approved dermatopathology technical supervisor board certifications from both the

American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology (AOBD) and the American Board of Dermatology (ABD). Based on this equivalence, CMS, in collaboration with the CDC, grants approval to ABPS BCD as an authorized certifying board for technical supervisors in dermatopathology. Approval allows this certification to serve as a qualifying credential for technical supervisors in dermatopathology. Individuals with ABPS BCD certification may also qualify as high complexity laboratory directors for testing in dermatopathology per the enforcement discretion announced in [QSO-25-21-CLIA](#).

**Discussion:**

State Agencies may accept board certification from individuals who have passed the ABPS BCD certification.

**Contact:**

For questions or concerns relating to this memorandum, please contact [LabExcellence@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:LabExcellence@cms.hhs.gov).

**Effective Date:**

Immediately. Please communicate to all appropriate staff within 30 days.

/s/

David R. Wright  
Director, Quality, Safety & Oversight Group

**Resources to Improve Quality of Care:**

*Check out CMS's new Quality in Focus interactive video series. The series of 10–15 minute videos are tailored to provider types and aim to reduce the deficiencies most commonly cited during the CMS survey process, like infection control and accident prevention. Reducing these common deficiencies increases the quality of care for people with Medicare and Medicaid.*

*Learn to:*

- *Understand surveyor evaluation criteria*
- *Recognize deficiencies*
- *Incorporate solutions into your facility's standards of care*

*See the [Quality, Safety, & Education Portal Training Catalog](#), and select Quality in Focus.*

*Get guidance memos issued by the Quality, Safety and Oversight Group by going to [CMS.gov](#) page and entering your email to sign up. Check the box next to "CCSQ Policy, Administrative, and Safety Special Alert Memorandums" to be notified when we release a memo.*