

Alaska State Medical Board
Board Issued Guidelines

Subject:	<i>Practicing a Specialty without being Board-Certified in that Specialty</i>
Implemented:	January 24, 2008
<p>In Alaska, a physician may practice any specialty without being certified by a specialty board.</p> <p>However, it is the expectation of the Alaska board that physicians meet the “standard of care” in any field they choose to practice. This means that the care rendered must be that which is reasonably expected of an appropriately trained physician in the setting involved.</p> <p>Under Alaska law, the board may impose disciplinary sanctions for “professional incompetence,” which mean slacking sufficient knowledge, skills, or professional judgment in that field of practice in which the physician or physician assistant concerned engages, to a degree likely to endanger the health of his or her patients.</p> <p>Board certification neither guarantees that such standards are met, nor does lack of board certification mean that these standards would not be met. It means that at some time, the physician undertook and successfully completed a formal course of training (residency) and passed an examination administered by the board of that specialty.</p>	