The Self-Designated Practice Specialties/Areas of Practice (SDPS) section of this web site is compiled and published by the American Medical Association (AMA) as a reference source. The specialty section is not intended nor should it be interpreted as a definitive or exhaustive compendium of individual specialty definitions, graduate medical education or Board certification requirements. Although the AMA undertakes reasonable efforts to keep the information contained in the specialty section accurate, the AMA does not warrant the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or merchantability or fitness for any purpose to which the specialty data may be put. The effort to define individual specialties and provide training requirements should not be viewed as representing endorsement or recognition of all fields of medical practice by the AMA. However, the AMA does recognize all specialties and subspecialties for which certification exists through member Boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The AMA acknowledges that additional specialties, subspecialties, and specialty codes may exist that are not listed on the AMA Physician Masterfile. It is understood that courses and programs submit policies, procedures, and requirements to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for accreditation and to the ABMS for certification on an on-going and regular basis and that it is beyond the scope and intention of this section to represent the status of individual submissions at any one point in time for any specialty field. Furthermore, in no event should SDPS information ever be interpreted as a statement of fact that each physician has achieved for a certainty all or any of the criteria for the specialty which he/she has chosen to designate for himself/herself.

How Self-Designated Practice Specialties/Areas of Practice Are Added to the AMA Physician Masterfile

The AMA records a physician’s self-designated practice specialties/areas of practice (SDPS) based on physician response to the Physicians’ Credentials Update (PCU) survey. In 1984 the AMA Board of Trustees approved three working criteria to determine whether an SDPS code should be added to the AMA Physician Masterfile:

1. A specialty defined by a general or special (subspecialty) certificate of special or added qualifications issued by an AMA recognized medical specialty board; OR
2. Existence of an ACGME accredited residency or subspecialty training program; OR
3. In exceptional circumstances, fields of medicine which do not meet Criterion 1 or 2 will be considered if AMA’s need to maintain records on the number of physicians in that field is determined; such determination is based on:
   a. Demand for services is such that a significant number of physicians choose to limit their practice to that specialty;
   b. The specialty is based on major new concepts in medical science having broad professional support;
   c. The specialty is a distinct and well-defined new field of medical practice which entails special concern with the problems of a specific patient group, organ system, disease entity or medical procedure.

As a condition for Criterion 3 (requirements for adding a specialty in exceptional cases), individuals requesting a change to the File should ask their society or a valid representative group to formally submit the request to the AMA. This procedure is recommended to discourage requests with minimal documentation. The AMA, however, will entertain requests if no society or representative group exists.

Definitions of Self-Designated Practice Specialties

The Department of Database Licensing provides definitions for all SDPSs on the AMA Physician Masterfile to help you interpret the environment of specialty medicine. They are not intended as authoritative, clinical descriptions nor do they represent AMA endorsement or recognition of all fields of medical practice or criteria for physicians to practice in any one or more specialty fields.

The AMA recognizes all specialties and subspecialties for which certification exists through Member Boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The AMA also recognizes all specialties for which there are residency training requirements established by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).
Ar
Abdominal Radiology
Abdominal Radiology constitutes the application and interpretation of conventional radiology, computed tomography, ultrasonography, magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, nuclear medicine, fluoroscopy, and interventional methods customarily included within the specialty of diagnostic radiology as they apply to diseases involving the gastrointestinal tract, the genitourinary tract, and the intraperitoneal and extraperitoneal abdominal organs.

AS
Abdominal Surgery
Abdominal Surgery is concerned with the knowledge and technical skills in congenital, infectious, metabolic, and neoplastic problems relating to the abdomen.

ADM
Addiction Medicine
Physicians in Addiction Medicine or Addictionists work with patients who have substance use disorders and are concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of withdrawal, medical or psychiatric complications and relapse as well as the monitoring of recovery. Addictionists work in various clinical settings such as outpatient clinics, hospitals, private offices, or day treatment centers. Potential patients include those with drinking problems, those injecting or smoking drugs, and people who become dependent on prescription drugs. Patients may be undergoing drug withdrawal or presenting hypertension, endocarditis, etc., as a result of their drug use. Adolescents in trouble with drug use, health care professionals addicted to drugs, and the families of these patients are examples of the kind of people an Addictionist may treat.

ADP
Addiction Psychiatry
Addiction psychiatrists are concerned with the management of patients with alcohol, drug, and other substance abuse disorders. The field involves pharmacology, psychiatry, general medicine, and psychology as addictive disorders often occur in conjunction with other medical or psychiatric problems.

AMI
Adolescent Medicine (Internal Medicine)
The physician in Adolescent Medicine is concerned with the unique physical, psychological, and social characteristics of adolescents, their health care problems and needs. They are also involved in coordinating the care required for youth and the planning and supervision for transitional health care services to adult health care. Adolescent Medicine is concerned with such allied health fields as law, psychology, social work, nutrition, juvenile justice, and public health.

ADL
Adolescent Medicine (Pediatrics)
See the definition for AMI Adolescent Medicine (Internal Medicine)

AMF
Adolescent Medicine (Family Practice)
See the definition for AMI Adolescent Medicine (Internal Medicine)

OAR
Adult Reconstructive Orthopedics
The physician in Adult Reconstructive Orthopedics is concerned with the surgical treatment of the hip, knee, shoulder and elbow, foot and ankle.
Aerospace Medicine is a discipline of medical practice within Preventive Medicine that focuses on the health of a population group defined by the operating crews and passengers of air and space vehicles together with the support personnel required to operate them. Segments of this population often work and live in remote, isolated, and sometimes closed environments under conditions of physical and psychological stress rarely encountered in terrestrial life. Physicians in Aerospace Medicine address the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disorders associated with these unique environments and with the adaptive systems designed to enhance performance and support life under such conditions.

Allergists diagnose and treat reactions due to irritating agents or allergens. Allergic reactions can result from unusual sensitivities to medicines, foods, pollens, or other substances.

An Allergist-Immunologist is concerned with the evaluation, physical and laboratory diagnosis, and management of disorders potentially involving the immune system. Selected examples of such conditions include asthma, anaphylaxis, rhinitis, eczema, urticaria, and adverse reactions to drugs, foods, and insect stings as well as immune deficiency diseases (both acquired and congenital), defects in host defense, and problems related to autoimmune disease, organ transplantation or malignancies of the immune system.

Physicians in Clinical and Laboratory Immunology (Allergy and Immunology) are involved in all aspects of the administration of a clinical immunology laboratory and perform laboratory tests to diagnose and treat disorders of the body's immune system.

Pathology is that discipline of the practice of medicine that deals with the causes and nature of disease. It contributes to diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment through knowledge gained by the laboratory application of the biologic, chemical, and physical sciences to man, or materials obtained from man. Pathologists diagnose, exclude, and monitor disease by means of information gathered from the microscopic examination of tissue specimens, cells, and body fluids, and from clinical laboratory tests on body fluids and secretions. Pathologists are involved with the management of laboratories and in data processing and with new developments in high technology.

The Anesthesiologist provides pain relief and maintenance, or restoration, of a stable condition during and immediately following an operation, an obstetric or diagnostic procedure. The Anesthesiologist assesses the risk of the patient undergoing surgery and optimizes the patient's condition prior to, during, and after surgery. Anesthesiologists diagnose and treat acute and longstanding pain problems. They diagnose and treat patients who have critical illnesses or are severely injured and direct resuscitation in the case of patients with cardiac or respiratory emergencies including the provision of artificial ventilation. They also supervise and teach others involved in anesthesia, respiratory and intensive care.

The discipline of Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine involves the maintenance of an adequate blood supply, blood donor and patient-recipient safety, and appropriate blood utilization. Pre-transfusion compatibility testing and testing procedures for antibodies are under the direction of these physicians. The blood bank physician directs the preparation and safe use of specially prepared blood components, including red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and plasma constituents.
ICE

Cardiac Electrophysiology
Cardiac Electrophysiology is a field within cardiology. Cardiac Electrophysiology involves complicated technical procedures to evaluate heart rhythms and determine appropriate treatment for them. These procedures are performed in a variety of settings including emergency and operating rooms, intensive care units and sophisticated clinics or laboratories.

CTR

Cardiothoracic Radiology
Physicians in Cardiothoracic Radiology are involved in the application and interpretation of imaging examinations and interventional procedures related to the lungs, pleura, mediastinum, chest wall, heart, pericardium, and the thoracic vascular system in the adult. Imaging methods and procedures include, but are not limited to, routine radiography, fluoroscopy, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, ultrasound and interventional techniques.

CD

Cardiovascular Disease
Physicians in Cardiovascular Disease focus on diseases of the heart, lungs, and blood vessels and manage complex cardiac conditions such as heart attacks and life-threatening abnormal heart beat rhythms. They often perform complicated diagnostic procedures such as cardiac catheterization and consult with surgeons on heart surgery.

PCH

Chemical Pathology
A Chemical Pathologist is involved with the biochemistry of the human body as it applies to the understanding of the cause and progress of disease. Chemical Pathology entails the application of biochemical data to the detection, confirmation, or monitoring of disease. The Chemical Pathologist functions as a clinical consultant in the diagnosis and treatment of human disease.

CHP

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
A Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist diagnoses and treats mental, addictive, and emotional disorders of childhood and adolescence.

CHN

Child Neurology
Child Neurology focuses on the special skills required in the diagnosis and management of neurological disorders of the newborn infant, early childhood and adolescence.

CBG

Clinical Biochemical Genetics
Clinical Biochemical Geneticists perform and interpret biochemical analyses relevant to the diagnosis and management of human genetic diseases and are consultants regarding laboratory diagnosis of a broad range of inherited disorders. The discipline includes:

- a. supervising the operations of a clinical biochemical genetics diagnostic laboratory:
  - b. 1) basic biochemistry and biology, 2) the application of biochemical techniques to the diagnosis and management of genetic diseases, and 3) the etiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, and management of human inherited biochemical disorders.
  - c. communicating biochemical laboratory results in the capacity of consultant to other clinicians or directly to patients in concert with other appropriate clinicians or genetic counselors.

CCG

Clinical Cytogenetics
Clinical cytogeneticists provide cytogenetic laboratory diagnostic and clinical interpretative services. The discipline includes:

- a. diagnostic and therapeutic skills in a wide range of cytogenetic problems
- b. heterogeneity, variability, and natural history of cytogenetic disorders
- c. supervising the performance of cytogenetic laboratory studies in a wide range of applications of their biological and statistical variability
- d. communicating cytogenetic laboratory results in the capacity of consultant to other clinicians or directly to patients in concert with other appropriate clinicians or genetic counselors.
Clinical geneticists provide comprehensive diagnostic, management, and counseling services. The discipline includes:

a. diagnostic and therapeutic skills in a wide range of genetic disorders
b. heterogeneity, variability, and natural history of genetic disorders
c. eliciting and interpreting individual and family histories, clinical and genetic
   information, and specialized laboratory and clinical procedures
d. resources for appropriate health care referral

PhD medical geneticists work in association with a medical specialist, are affiliated with a clinical genetics program, serve as consultants to medical and dental specialists. The discipline includes:

a. eliciting and interpreting individual and family histories
b. heterogeneity, variability, and natural history of the medical disorders in question, and
   significance of specialized laboratory and clinical procedures
c. genetic and mathematical principles to perform complex risk assessments, to interpret
   pedigree analysis (both segregation and linkage), and understand the principles of
   genetic etiology

Clinical and Laboratory Dermatological Immunology
Physicians in Clinical and Laboratory Dermatological Immunology are involved in the study, diagnosis, treatment, and outcome of skin diseases involving the immune system. These physicians focus on such diseases from the perspective of anatomic and clinical pathology, along with the interpretation of immunologic analyses of tissue cells and body fluids.

Clinical and Laboratory Immunology (Internal Medicine)
Clinical and Laboratory Immunology (Internal Medicine) is a discipline in which laboratory tests and complex procedures are used to diagnose and treat disorders characterized by defective responses of the body's immune systems.

Clinical and Laboratory Immunology (Pediatrics)
Pediatrics, Clinical and Laboratory Immunology (Pediatrics) is concerned with the various laboratory procedures required to analyze both the function and malfunction of the immune system. Physicians in the discipline serve as consultants in the application and interpretation of diagnostic immunology tests.

Clinical Molecular Genetics
Clinical Molecular Geneticists perform and interpret molecular analyses relevant to the diagnosis and management of human genetic diseases, and are consultants regarding laboratory diagnosis of a broad range of inherited disorders. The discipline includes:

a. supervising the operations of a clinical molecular genetics diagnostic laboratory
b. 1) basic molecular biology and genetics, 2) the application of recombinant DNA techniques and linkage analysis to the diagnosis of genetic diseases, and 3) the etiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, and management of human genetic disorders; and
c. communicating biochemical laboratory results in the capacity of a consultant to other clinicians or directly to patients in concert with other appropriate clinicians or genetic counselors.

Clinical Neurophysiology
Clinical Neurophysiology is concerned with the diagnosis and management of central and peripheral nervous system disorders using electrophysiological techniques.
CLP
Clinical Pathology
See PTH Anatomic/Clinical Pathology
Clinical Pathology focuses on microbiology (including bacteriology, mycology, parasitology, and virology), immunopathology, blood banking/transfusion medicine, chemical pathology, cytogenetics, hematology, coagulation, toxicology, medical microscopy (including urinalysis), molecular biologic techniques, and other advanced diagnostic techniques as they become available.

PA
Clinical Pharmacology
Clinical Pharmacology is a discipline that deals with the optimally safe and effective use of drugs, and the development of new and improved drug therapies. It is grounded in the disciplines of clinical medicine and pharmacology but draws on a number of diverse other sciences, such as pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, biostatistics, analytical and biological chemistry, toxicology, clinical trial design, decision analysis, epidemiology, and outcomes research. Clinical activities emphasize consultation in therapeutic choice and optimization, auditing and monitoring drug therapy through Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee participation, and the development and evaluation of new drugs. Clinical Pharmacologists may be in academic medicine, the pharmaceutical industry, or governmental agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration. Clinical Pharmacologists are involved with: pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, pharmacogenetics, pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacoconomics, the pharmacology of agents acting on specific organs or physiologic systems.

CRS
Colon and Rectal Surgery
A Colon and Rectal surgeon diagnoses and often manages anorectal conditions such as hemorrhoids, fissures (painful tears in the anal lining), abscesses and fistulae (infections located around the anus and rectum) in the office. Colon and Rectal Surgeons also treat problems of the intestine and colon and perform endoscopic procedures to detect and treat conditions of the bowel lining. Endoscopy involves the passage of lighted tubes through the bowel to evaluate and treat problems such as cancer, polyps, (pre-cancerous growths) and inflammatory conditions. The names used to describe these procedures include proctoscopy ("procto"), proctosigmoidoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and colonoscopy. Polyps can often be removed during endoscopy without abdominal surgery. If cancers are detected, Colon and Rectal Surgeons plan the surgical treatment program based on their first hand visualization of the tumor, and follow up with endoscopic techniques. Colon and Rectal Surgeons perform abdominal surgical procedures involving the small bowel, colon and rectum. These include treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases such as chronic ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, as well as diverticulitis and cancer. Colon and Rectal Surgeons are often able to treat cancer of the rectum without a colostomy. The management of intestinal infections such as diverticulitis, bacterial colon infections and intestinal parasites is also within the domain of the colon and rectal surgeon. Colon and Rectal Surgery also includes intestinal and anorectal physiology needed for the evaluation and treatment of problems such as constipation and incontinence (loss of bowel control).

CS
Cosmetic Surgery
Cosmetic surgery is a subspecialty of medicine and surgery that uniquely restricts itself to the enhancement of appearance through surgical and medical techniques. It is specifically concerned with maintaining normal appearance, restoring it, or enhancing it beyond the average level toward some aesthetic ideal. Cosmetic surgery is a multi-disciplinary and comprehensive approach directed to all areas of the head, neck and body. Through continued post-residency education training, and experience, cosmetic surgery is taught and learned across traditional disciplinary boundaries. The subspecialty fully incorporates the participation and knowledge from all contributing disciplines to attain a high level of skill and understanding. Contributing disciplines include dermatology, facial plastic surgery, general surgery, plastic surgery, otolaryngology, oculoplastic surgery, oral-maxillofacial surgery and others.

CFS
Craniofacial Surgery
Craniofacial Surgery is a discipline of plastic surgery that includes the in-depth study and reconstructive treatment of disorders of the soft and hard tissues of the face and cranial areas, such as congenital anomalies and posttraumatic and other acquired conditions. Although Craniofacial Surgery includes combined intracranial and extracranial surgery, the broad scope of the discipline is applicable to other procedures in the craniofacial region. The team approach to many problems may be appropriate, resulting in the integration of other specialties into the craniofacial team. In addition to plastic surgery, these specialties include neurological surgery, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, oral surgery, and orthodontics.
CCA
Critical Care Medicine (Anesthesiology)
The Critical Care Medicine Anesthesiologist’s primary work place is an intensive or critical care unit. Anesthesiologists in critical care diagnose, treat and support patients with multiple organ dysfunction. In addition, they may have administrative responsibilities for intensive care units and may participate in the training and medical direction of essential health care professionals such as nurses, respiratory therapists, and physicians in training. The Critical Care Anesthesiologist, in addition to providing direct patient care, may also facilitate and coordinate patient care among the primary physician, the critical care staff, and other specialists.

CCM
Critical Care Medicine (Internal Medicine)
The Critical Care Medicine Internist manages life-threatening disorders in intensive care units and other hospital settings. Shock, coma, heart failure, trauma, respiratory arrest, drug overdoses, massive bleeding, diabetic acidosis, and kidney failure are examples of conditions requiring critical care by internists.

OCC
Critical Care Medicine (Obstetrics and Gynecology)
The Critical Care Medicine Obstetrician /Gynecologist is involved in all aspects of management of the critically ill patient and whose base of operation is the intensive care unit (ICU). The critical care medicine physician works in concert with the various specialties on the patient care team in the ICU to utilize recognized techniques for vital life support, to teach other physicians, nurses, and health professionals the practice of intensive care, and to foster research.

PCP
Cytopathology
A Cytopathologist is a pathologist who diagnoses human disease by means of the study of cells. The cells are obtained from body secretions and fluids, by scraping, washing or sponging the surface of a lesion, or by the aspiration of a tumor mass or body organ with a fine needle. The cells are studied using special stains and chemical analyses. A major aspect of a Cytopathologist's practice is the interpretation of Papanicolaou-stained smears of cells from the female reproductive systems, "the Pap" test. However, the cytopathologist diagnoses cells from all systems and areas of the body. The Cytopathologist is a consultant to all medical specialists.

D
Dermatology
A Dermatologist is a physician who diagnoses and treats pediatric and adult patients with benign and malignant disorders of the skin, mouth, external genitalia, hair and nails, as well as a number of sexually transmitted diseases. Dermatologists diagnose and treat skin cancers, melanomas, moles, and other tumors of the skin, contact dermatitis and other allergic and nonallergic disorders and in the recognition of the skin manifestations of systemic (including internal malignancy) and infectious diseases. The Dermatologist also manages cosmetic disorders of the skin such as hair loss and scars. Dermatologists also provide care for normal skin to prevent skin diseases and skin cancers. Dermatologists perform many specialized diagnostic procedures including microscopic examination of skin biopsy specimens, cytological smears, patch tests, photo tests, potassium hydroxide (KOH) preparations, fungus cultures and other microbiologic examination of skin scrapings and secretions. Treatment methods used by Dermatologists include externally applied, injected, and internal medications, selected x-ray and ultraviolet light therapy, and a range of dermatologic surgical procedures. The training and experience of Dermatologists in dermatologic surgery may include electrosurgery, cryosurgery with the use of freezing surgical units, laser surgery, nail surgery, biopsy techniques and excisional surgery with appropriate closures, including flaps and grafts. Among some of the techniques used by dermatologists for the correction of cosmetic defects are dermabrasion, chemical face peels, hair transplants, injections of materials into the skin for scar revision, sclerosis of veins and laser surgery of vascular lesions of the skin, including certain birth marks.
DMP
Dermatopathology
Dermatology:
Dermatopathologists evaluate tissue specimens submitted from dermatologic patients. These evaluations include the
examination and interpretation of microscopic slides of thin tissue sections and smears, and scrapings from lesions of skin
and related tissues. The dermatopathologist is involved with light and electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry, and
laboratory management.
Pathology:
Dermatopathologists diagnose and monitor disease of the skin including infectious immunologic, degenerative, and
neoplastic diseases. This entails the examination and interpretation of specially prepared tissue sections, cellular scrapings
and smears of skin lesions by means of light microscopy, electron microscopy, and fluorescence microscopy.
Dermatopathologists consult with patients and their physicians. Their domain includes dermatology, microbiology,
parasitology, new technology, and laboratory management.

DS
Dermatologic Surgery
Dermatologic Surgery deals with the diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the skin, hair, nails, veins, mucous
membranes and adjacent tissues. Surgical treatment techniques include repairing and/or improving the function and
appearance of skin tissue. Dermatologic Surgery focuses upon an entire organ – the skin- and such diseases and disorders
as skin cancer; benign growths; aging and sun-damaged skin; and cosmetic defects. The surgical techniques employed by
Dermatologic Surgeons include but are not limited to excision and closure, flap surgery, cryosurgery, chemical surgery,
dermabrasion, hair replacement surgery, soft tissue augmentation, tissue expansion, incisional surgery, Moh's micrographic
surgery, grafting, laser surgery, curettage and desiccation, liposuction, sclerotherapy, micropigmentation,
blepheroplasty, ambulatory phlebectomy, destructive modalities and nail surgery.

DBP
Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics
Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics focuses on the understanding and promotion of optimal development of children and
families through education, research, clinical care and advocacy efforts. This discipline is concerned with the prevention,
diagnosis, and management of developmental difficulties and problematic behavior in children. It is also concerned with
family dysfunctions that compromise a child’s development.

DIA
Diabetes
Diabetes is concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of metabolic disorders that result from an impairment or loss of the
pancreas’ incretory function. A Diabetologist diagnoses and medically manages insulin-dependent and non-insulin
dependent diabetes.

DR
Diagnostic Radiology
Diagnostic Radiology is that branch of Radiology which deals with the utilization of all modalities of radiant energy in
medical diagnosis and therapeutic procedures utilizing radiologic guidance. This includes, but is not restricted to, imaging
techniques and methodologies utilizing radiation emitted by x-ray tubes, radionuclides, ultrasonographic devices, and
radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation emitted by atoms.

EM
Emergency Medicine
Emergency Medicine is the medical discipline that focuses on the immediate decision making and action necessary to
prevent death or any further disability. It is primarily hospital emergency department based, but with extensive pre-hospital
responsibilities for emergency medical systems. The Emergency Medicine physician provides immediate initial recognition,
evaluation, care and disposition of a generally undifferentiated population of patients in response to acute illness and
injury. The care provided by the Emergency Medicine physician is episodic in nature and involves a full spectrum of
physical and behavioral conditions.

END
Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism
The Endocrinologist concentrates on disorders of the internal (endocrine) glands such as the thyroid and adrenal glands.
Endocrinology also deals with disorders such as diabetes, metabolic and nutritional disorders, pituitary diseases, and
menstrual and sexual problems.
EP
Epidemiology
Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in specified populations, and the application of this study to control of health problems. “Study” includes surveillance, observation, hypothesis testing, analytic research, and experiments. “Distribution” refers to analysis by time, place, and classes of persons affected. “Determinants” are all physical, biological, social, cultural, and behavioral factors that influence health. “Health-related states and events” include diseases, causes of death, behavior such as use of tobacco, reactions to preventive retimens, and provision of use of health services. “Specified populations” are those with identifiable characteristics such as precisely defined numbers. “Application to control…” makes explicit the aim of Epidemiology – to promote, protect, and restore health.

FPS
Facial Plastic Surgery
Facial Plastic Surgery is an area in Otolaryngology. Facial Plastic Surgery focuses on the knowledge, skill, and understanding required to perform esthetic, plastic and reconstructive surgery of the face, head, and neck.

FP
Family Practice
Family Practice physicians diagnose and treat a wide variety of ailments in patients of all ages. Their domain includes surgery, psychiatry, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics and geriatrics. They place special emphasis on care of families on a continuing basis, utilizing consultations and community resources when appropriate. They are able to apply modern techniques to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the vast majority of common illnesses and injuries.

FOP
Forensic Pathology
A Forensic Pathologist investigates and evaluates cases of sudden, unexpected, suspicious, and violent death as well as other specific classes of death defined by law. The Forensic Pathologist serves the public as coroner or medical examiner or by performing medicolegal autopsies for such officials.

PFP
Forensic Psychiatry
Forensic Psychiatry focuses on the knowledge and evaluation of certain diagnostic groups of patients that include those with sexual disorders, antisocial personality disorders, paranoid disorders, and addictive disorders. The domain of the Forensic Psychiatrist includes careful observations for malingering, the utilization of ancillary information such as police reports, interviews with relatives and witnesses, and careful review of prior medical records. The Forensic Psychiatrist who performs evaluations requiring reports and testimony is also involved with certain legal concepts and structures, such as the organization and structure of the judicial system, statutory, case and administrative law, rules of evidence, specific case law relevant to mental disorders in the practice of psychiatry, and the organization and operations of the legislative process.

GE
Gastroenterology
Gastroenterology is concerned with the digestive organs like the stomach, bowels, liver, and gallbladder. Gastroenterologists treat conditions such as abdominal pain, ulcers, diarrhea, cancer, and jaundice. Gastroenterologists perform complex diagnostic and therapeutic procedures using lighted scopes to see internal organs. They consult with surgeons when abdominal operations are indicated.

GP
General Practice
General Practice concerns the diagnosis and treatment of disease by both medical and surgical methods No organ system or body region is excluded. General Practice also includes all patient age groups.
GPM
General Preventive Medicine
General Preventive Medicine focuses on the health of individuals and defined populations in order to protect, promote and maintain health and well-being, and to prevent disease, disability and premature death. In addition to the knowledge of basic and clinical sciences and the skills common to all physicians, the distinctive components of Preventive Medicine include:

1. Biostatistics
2. Epidemiology
3. Health services administration
4. Environmental and occupational influences on health
5. Social and behavioral influences on health
6. Measures which prevent the occurrence, progression and disabling effects of disease or injury.

GS
General Surgery
A General Surgeon manages a broad spectrum of surgical conditions affecting almost any area of the body. The surgeon establishes the diagnosis and provides the preoperative, operative and postoperative care to surgical patients and is usually responsible for the comprehensive management of the trauma victim and the critically ill. The General Surgeon’s domain includes congenital, infectious, metabolic and neoplastic problems relating to the head and neck, breast, abdomen, extremities, including the hand and the gastrointestinal, vascular and endocrine systems. The surgeon uses a variety of diagnostic techniques, including endoscopy, for observing internal structures, and may use specialized instruments during operative procedures. The General Surgeon’s domain also includes the salient features of other surgical specialties in order to recognize problems in those areas and to know when to refer a patient to another specialist.

FPG
Geriatric Medicine (Family Practice)
A Family Practice physician in Geriatric Medicine advises older patients in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders common to old age.

IMG
Geriatric Medicine (Internal Medicine)
Geriatric Medicine Internists focus on the aging process and the diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, and rehabilitative aspects of illness in the elderly. These physicians care for geriatric patients in the patient’s home, the office, in long-term care setting such as nursing homes, and in the hospital. These physicians are concerned with unusual presentations of illness and drug interactions. They use resources such as community social services and assist with special ethical issues in the care of the elderly. Examples of common geriatric conditions include incontinence, falls, Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

PYG
Geriatric Psychiatry
A Geriatric Psychiatrist diagnoses and treats mental, addictive, and emotional disorders of the elderly.

GYN
Gynecology
Gynecology is concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the female reproductive system.

GO
Gynecological Oncology
Gynecologic Oncologists provide consultation and comprehensive management of patients with gynecologic cancer. Their activities include the practice of gynecologic oncology in an institutional setting where all the effective forms of cancer therapy are available. Comprehensive management includes those diagnostic and therapeutic procedures necessary for the total care of the patient with gynecologic cancer and complications resulting therefrom.

HS
Hand Surgery
Hand Surgery is concerned with all the structures of the upper extremity directly affecting the form and function of the hand and wrist. The Hand Surgeon provides appropriate care for all structures in the upper extremity directly affecting the hand and wrist function.
HNS
Head and Neck Surgery
Head and Neck Surgery is broadly defined as surgical treatment of diseases and injuries of the head and neck.

HEM
Hematology (Internal Medicine)
Hematologists are concerned with diseases of the blood, spleen, and lymph glands. They treat conditions such as anemia, clotting disorders, sickle cell disease, hemophilia, leukemia, and lymphoma. They perform special types of transfusions and biopsy and bone marrow for analysis.

HMP
Hematology (Pathology)
Hematologists focus on blood cells, blood clotting mechanisms, bone marrow, and lymph nodes. They are involved with the laboratory diagnosis of anemias, leukemias, lymphomas, bleeding disorders, and blood clotting disorders. They also are consultants to all physicians and work closely with clinical hematologists and oncologists.

HO
Hematology/Oncology
Hematologist/Oncologists are concerned with both blood diseases and cancer. They treat diseases of the blood and blood forming organs (e.g., spleen, lymph nodes, bone marrow, and thymus) as well as neoplastic diseases arising in any organ system.

HEP
Hepatology
The discipline of Hepatology encompasses the structure, function, and diseases of the liver and biliary tract Hepatology is viewed as part of the discipline of gastroenterology.

HOS
Hospitalist
Hospitalists focus on the provision of inpatient medicine. They manage in-hospital patients as primary care physicians manage the care of out-patients. Hospitalists typically spend the majority of their work day in the hospital, assist in coordinating care of hospital patients, and can address unique aspects of patients' requirements during their hospital stay.

IG
Immunology
Immunology focuses on the body's ability to combat infectious or irritating substances that threaten it with disease and how the body's immune system operates. An Immunologist is concerned with all the biological, serological, physical and chemical aspects of immune phenomena.

ID
Infectious Disease
Infectious Disease physicians (or Internists) focus on infectious diseases of all types and in all organs. Conditions requiring selective use of antibiotics call for their skills. AIDS patients and patients with fevers which have not been explained are often diagnosed and treated by these physicians. Infectious disease physicians are also concerned with preventive medicine and conditions associated with travel.

IM
Internal Medicine
The General Internist is a personal physician who provides long-term, comprehensive care in the office and the hospital, managing both common illnesses and complex problems for adolescents, adults, and the elderly. General Internists are concerned with primary care internal medicine which incorporates disease prevention, wellness, substance abuse, mental health and effective treatment of common problems of the eyes, ears, skin, nervous system and reproductive organs. Internists consult with surgeons when surgical management is indicated. They also often act as consultants to other specialists.

MPD
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics is a combined residency specialty program that was also added to the SDPS list on the AMA Physician Masterfile. See definitions for IM Internal Medicine and PD Pediatrics.
IC  
**Interventional Cardiology**  
Interventional Cardiology is a field within cardiology. Interventional Cardiology involves the use of specialized imaging and other diagnostic techniques to evaluate blood flow and pressure in the coronary arteries and chambers of the heart and the use of technical procedures and medications to treat abnormalities that impair the function of the heart. Therapeutic interventional cardiac procedures are performed in special clinics or hospital-based laboratories.

LM  
**Legal Medicine**  
Legal Medicine focuses on various aspects of medicine and law. Historically, the practice of Legal Medicine made contributions to medicine as a scientific instrument to solve criminal perplexities. Since World War II, the domain of Legal Medicine has broadened to include not only aspects of medical science to solve legal and criminal problems but aspects of the law as it applies to medicine. Legal Medicine continues to grow as medicolegal issues like medical malpractice and liability, government regulation of health care, issues of tort reform, and moral and ethical complexities presented by technological advances become increasingly prominent.

MFM  
**Maternal and Fetal Medicine**  
Maternal Fetal Medicine physicians care for or provide consultation on patients with complications of pregnancy. These physicians are concerned with obstetrical, medical and surgical complications of pregnancy and their effect on both the mother and the fetus. The discipline also involves the most current diagnostic and treatment modalities used in the care of patients with complicated pregnancies.

MG  
**Medical Genetics**  
Medical Geneticists diagnose and provide therapeutic procedures for patients with genetic linked diseases. They are concerned with modern cytogenetic, radiologic, and biochemical testing. Such diagnostic information can assist the Medical Geneticist in genetic counseling, the implementation of needed therapeutic interventions, and the prospective prevention through prenatal diagnosis. The Medical Geneticist plans and coordinates large-scale screening programs for inborn errors of metabolism, hemoglobinopathies, chromosome abnormalities, and neural tube defects. The Medical Geneticist provides the genetic services for patients with such a spectrum of genetic diseases.

MDM  
**Medical Management**  
Medical Management encompasses all physicians who devote the substantial majority of their time to administrative medicine, including work in medical societies, academic organizations, health systems and other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions and organizations. Medical Management is that field of medicine that is concerned with the principles and practices of creating organizational environments that enhance and advance the practice of medicine and the delivery of healthcare by coordinating both the clinical and managerial aspects of healthcare. It also includes the principles and practices governing the delivery, purchase, payment and regulation of medical and healthcare services in organizations.

MM  
**Medical Microbiology**  
A Medical Microbiologist is concerned with the isolation and identification of microbial agents that cause infectious disease. Viruses, bacteria, and fungi, as well as single-cell and larger parasites are identified and, where possible, tested for susceptibility to appropriate antimicrobial agents. These physicians (or pathologists) frequently act as consultants to primary care physicians in the diagnosis and selection of therapy for patients with infectious disease, to the hospital quality assurance program in the area of infection control, and to the hospital pharmacy in the area of antibiotic utilization.

ON  
**Medical Oncology**  
Medical Oncologists diagnose and treat all types of cancer and other benign and malignant tumors. These physicians decide on and administer chemotherapy for malignancy as well as consult with surgeons and radiotherapists on other treatment for cancer.
Medical Toxicology (Emergency Medicine). See EM Emergency Medicine

Medical Toxicology (Pediatrics). See PD Pediatrics

Medical Toxicology (Preventive Medicine).
Medical Toxicologists evaluate and manage patients with accidental or intentional poisoning through exposure to prescription and non-prescription medications, drugs of abuse, household or industrial toxins, and environmental toxins. These physicians provide consultations through affiliations with regional poison control centers or within their respective medical institutions. The more important areas of Medical Toxicology include but are not limited to the following list subjects: acute pediatric and adult drug ingestion; drug abuse, addiction and withdrawal; chemical poisoning exposure and toxicity; hazardous materials exposure and toxicity; occupational toxicology; biological poisons; basic concepts of toxicology such as kinetics, dose-response relationships, indices of toxicity and safety standards; basic principles of poison prevention; basic principles of toxic exposure and preventive methodologies.

Molecular Genetic Pathology (Medical Genetics)
Molecular Genetic Pathology is a subspecialty of Medical Genetics. A subspecialty certificate for MGG was approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) in 1999. For information on certificates issued and other information contact the ABMS.

Molecular Genetic Pathology (Pathology)
Molecular Genetic Pathology is a subspecialty of Pathology. A subspecialty certificate for MGP was approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) in 1999. For information on certificates issued and other information contact the ABMS.

Musculoskeletal Oncology
Musculoskeletal Oncology is a field in Orthopedics that focuses on Oncology.

Musculoskeletal Radiology
Musculoskeletal Radiology focuses on the application and interpretation of all imaging examinations and procedures as they relate to the analysis of disorders of the musculoskeletal system, including bones, joints, and soft tissues. The imaging methods and procedures include, but are not limited to, routine radiography, computed tomography, arthrography, and image guided percutaneous biopsy techniques.

Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Physicians in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine are the principal care providers for sick newborn infants and have a focused clinical interest in the health problems of newborns. They provide direct patient care to newborns and consult with obstetrical colleagues to plan the care of mothers who have high-risk pregnancies. They also consult with general pediatricians as these physicians routinely care for most newborns.

Nephrology
Nephrologists are concerned with disorders of kidney, high blood pressure, fluid and mineral balance, dialysis of body wastes when the kidneys do not function, and consultation with surgeons about kidney transplantation.

Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Pediatrics)
Neurodevelopmental Disabilities is a subspecialty of Pediatrics. A subspecialty certificate for NDP was approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties in 1999. For information on certificates issued and other information contact the ABMS.
NDN
Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Psychiatry & Neurology)
Neurodevelopmental Disabilities is a subspecialty of Psychiatry and Neurology. A subspecialty certificate for NDN was approved by the ABMS in 1999. For information on certificates issued and other information contact the ABMS.

N
Neurology
Neurology is concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of all categories of disease or impaired function of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, muscles, and autonomic nervous system, as well as the blood vessels that relate to these structures. Neurologists serve as consultants to other physicians but also are often the principal or primary physicians and may render all levels of care commensurate with their training. This may include continuing care of outpatients and/or inpatients. The Neurologist will often perform and interpret certain tests that relate to the central or peripheral nervous system or muscles.

NRN
Neurology/Diagnostic Radiology/Neuroradiology
Neurology/Diagnostic Radiology/Neuroradiology is a combined residency specialty program. It was also added to the SDPS list on the AMA Physician Masterfile. See definitions for N Neurology DR Diagnostic Radiology, and RNR Neuroradiology.

NS
Neurological Surgery
Neurological Surgery is that discipline of medicine and surgery which provides the operative and non-operative management (i.e., prevention, diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, critical care and rehabilitation) of disorders of the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous systems, including their supporting structures and vascular supply; the evaluation and treatment of pathological processes which modify function or activity of the nervous system, including the hypophysis; and the operative and non-operative management of pain. Neurological Surgery encompasses treatment of patients with disorders of the nervous system: the brain, meninges, skull and their blood supply, including the extracranial carotid and vertebral arteries; disorders of the pituitary gland; disorders of the spinal cord, meninges and spine, including treatment by fusion or instrumentation; and disorders of the cranial and spinal nerves throughout their distribution.

NP
Neuropathology
Neuropathology focuses on the scientific study of tissues, cells, and body fluids. Neuropathologists diagnose diseases of the nervous system and skeletal muscles and function as consultants primarily to neurologists and neurosurgeons. The Neuropathologist is concerned with infirmities as they affect the nervous and neuromuscular systems be they degenerative, infectious, metabolic, immunologic, neoplastic, vascular, or physical in nature.

RNR
Neuroradiology
Neuroradiology includes imaging and interventional procedures related to the brain, spine and spinal cord, head, neck, and organs of special sense in adults and children. The Neuroradiologist functions as a diagnostic and therapeutic consultant and practitioner.

NC
Nuclear Cardiology
Nuclear Cardiology begins with the performance of an imaging procedure. Physician interpretation of the image films then helps to better define activity relating to the heart and its muscular structure. This procedure is utilized as a diagnostic tool in suspected and actual diseases of the heart.
**NM**

**Nuclear Medicine**
Nuclear medicine employs the nuclear properties of radioactive and stable nuclides in diagnosis, therapy and research. These properties are used to evaluate metabolic, physiologic, and pathologic conditions in both the clinical and laboratory settings. Nuclear Medicine physicians are concerned with the diagnostic and therapeutic uses of radionuclides including: radioimmunoassay; therapy with radioisotopically labeled antibodies; positron emission tomography (PET); and single-proton emission computerized tomography (SPECT). Additionally, the Nuclear Medicine physician focuses on the biologic effects of radiation exposure; the principles of radiation safety and protection; the management of patients who have been exposed to ionizing radiation; and special knowledge in the physical sciences encompassing the fundamentals of nuclear physics and nuclear magnetic resonance; the principles and operation of radiation detection and nuclear imaging instrumentation systems; statistics and fundamentals of computer sciences. The Nuclear Medicine physician serves as a consultant to physicians, obtaining pertinent information from patients as necessary by means of history and physical examination and selecting and carrying out appropriate diagnostic or therapeutic uses of radionuclides.

**NR**

**Nuclear Radiology**
Nuclear Radiology is that branch of Radiology which involves the analysis and imaging of radionuclides and radiolabeled substances in vitro and in vivo for diagnosis and the administration of radionuclides and radiolabeled substances for the treatment of disease.

**NTR**

**Nutrition**
Nutrition is concerned with food requirements and the effects of nutrients.

**OBS**

**Obstetrics**
Obstetrics is concerned with the care and treatment during pregnancy, labor, delivery and care of the mother and child immediately after delivery.

**OBG**

**Obstetrics and Gynecology**
Obstetrician-Gynecologists are physicians who are concerned with the medical and surgical care of the female reproductive system and associated disorders, such that it distinguishes them from other physicians and enables them to serve as consultant to other physicians and as primary physicians for women.

**OM**

**Occupational Medicine**
Occupational Medicine is a discipline of Preventive Medicine that focuses on the relationships among the health of workers, the ability to perform work, the arrangements of work, and the physical and chemical environments of the workplace. Practitioners in this field recognize that work and the environment in which work is performed can have favorable or adverse effects upon the health of workers; that the nature or circumstances of work can be arranged to protect worker health; and that health and well-being at the workplace are promoted when workers' physical attributes or limitations are accommodated in job placement.

**OPH**

**Ophthalmology**
Ophthalmologists diagnose, monitor and medically or surgically treat all eyelid and orbital problems affecting the eye and visual pathways. They also diagnose, monitor and treat all eye and visual disorders. In so doing, they often prescribe vision services (glasses and contact lenses). The Ophthalmologist also serves as a consultant to physicians and other professionals.

**OFS**

**Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**
Oral and Maxillofacial surgery is a recognized specialty of the dental profession, encompassing the surgical and related treatment of diseases, injuries and defects involving both the functional and esthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the head, face, mouth, teeth, gums, jaws, and neck. Practitioners in this discipline hold both a DDS degree and an MD degree.
Orthopedic Surgery
Orthopedic Surgery includes the preservation, investigation, and restoration of the form and function of the extremities, spine and associated structures by medical, surgical and physical means. Orthopedic Surgeons are involved with the care of patients whose musculoskeletal problems are present at birth or develop at any time during their lifetime. Congenital deformities, trauma, infections, tumors and metabolic disturbances of the musculoskeletal system are problems cared for by the Orthopedic Surgeon. These musculoskeletal problems include deformities, injuries, and degenerative diseases of the spine, hands, feet, knee, hip, shoulder and elbow in children and adults. The Orthopedic Surgeon is concerned with primary and secondary muscular problems. They are also involved in the care of patients who manifest the effects of central or peripheral nervous system lesions on the musculoskeletal system.

Orthopedic Surgery of the Spine
Orthopedic Surgery, Spine Surgery is a discipline of Orthopedics that focuses on the medical and surgical treatment of the spine.

Orthopedic Trauma
Orthopedic Trauma is a discipline of Orthopedics that focuses on the treatment of musculoskeletal trauma.

Foot and Ankle, Orthopedics
Foot and Ankle Orthopedics is a discipline of orthopedic surgery that includes the in-depth study, prevention, and treatment of musculoskeletal diseases, disorders, and sequelae of injuries in this anatomic region by medical, physical, and surgical methods.

Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine is concerned with the implementation of that part of the osteopathic philosophy which emphasizes the interaction of body systems as a principal tenet for understanding the total body as an integrated unit. The discipline of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine directs special attention to the neuromusculoskeletal system and its interaction with other body systems. Recognizing musculoskeletal movement as a primary body function, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine advances knowledge about anatomic/physiologic and pathologic aspects of that system’s role in health and disease. It encourages the development of special skill in the use of specific visual and palpatory techniques for improving physical assessment and treatment of body disturbances expressed clinically in the neuromusculoskeletal system and in other fundamentally related systems. Such knowledge and skill is not confined to the care of specially selected patients but also includes the neuromusculoskeletal factors important for consideration in the management of every patient.

Otolaryngology
Otolaryngologists focus on the medical and surgical care of patients with diseases and disorders that affect the ears, the respiratory and upper alimentary systems and related structures; the head and neck in general. Otolaryngologists are concerned with the respiratory and upper alimentary systems; the communication sciences, including knowledge of audiology and speech-language pathology; the chemical senses and allergy, endocrinology and neurology as they relate to the head and neck; the clinical aspects of diagnosis and the medical and/or surgical therapy or prevention for diseases, neoplasms, deformities, disorders and/or injuries of the ears, the respiratory and upper alimentary systems, the face, jaws and the other head and neck systems. Head and neck oncology and facial plastic and reconstructive surgery are fundamental areas of the discipline.

Otology/Neurotology
Otology/Neurotology physicians (or Otolaryngologists and Head and Neck Surgeons) are concerned with the diagnosis, management, prevention, cure, and care of patients with diseases of the ear and temporal bone, including disorders of hearing and balance. Otology/Neurotology emphasizes the study of embroyology, anatomy, physiology, epidemiology, pathophysiology, pathology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, and the etiology of diseases of the ear and temporal bone. The operating microscope and the development of new technology and refined surgical techniques have enhanced the treatment opportunities for patients in need of cochlear implants, implantable hearing aids, the extensive reconstructive
techniques on the tympanum and ossicular chains. Physicians in Otology/Neurotology are also involved with the newer developments in vestibular physiology and neurotologic surgery.

APM
Pain Management
Pain Management is concerned with managing patients experiencing problems with acute or chronic pain in both hospital and ambulatory settings and in the coordination of a multidisciplinary approach toward pain management. Pain Management focuses on patients within the entire range of painful disorders. Pain Management may also include the coordination of patient care needs with primary care physicians and other specialists.

PMD
Pain Medicine
Pain Medicine physicians focus on the evaluation and management of individuals with acute, cancer, postoperative, and chronic pain. The Pain Medicine physician is involved with the neurophysiology and neurochemistry of pain and with the complexities of patients with chronic pain. They also address medical, physical, psycho-social and environmental factors that affect the perception of pain and attendant disabilities. Physicians in diverse fields of medicine are active in Pain Medicine. These fields include: Anesthesiology, Oncology, Neurosurgery, Neurology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Psychiatry, Internal Medicine, Family Practice and other disciplines.

PLM
Palliative Medicine
Palliative Medicine involves the active total care of patients when they no longer respond to curative treatments and when control of pain, symptoms, psychological, social, and spiritual problems is paramount. The overall goal of palliative care is the highest possible quality of life for the patient and family. It offers a support system to help the patient live as actively as possible until death and a support system to help the family cope during the patient’s illness and in bereavement. Palliative care may include hospice care.

PDA
Pediatric Allergy
Pediatric Allergy is concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of allergies in children.

PAN
Pediatric Anesthesiology (Pediatrics)
Pediatric Anesthesiology is the discipline of Anesthesiology devoted to the preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative anesthetic care of pediatric patients.

PDC
Pediatric Cardiology
Pediatric Cardiologists focus on children from fetal life to young adulthood. They provide comprehensive care to patients with cardiovascular problems. The Pediatric Cardiologist selects, performs, and evaluates the structural and functional assessment of the heart and blood vessels and engages in the evaluation of cardiovascular disease.

PCS
Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery
Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery combines the disciplines of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery as practiced in infants, children, and young adults. The discipline encompasses the operative and perioperative management of patients with congenital malformations of the heart and related blood vessels, lungs, esophagus, chest wall, and related structures. The discipline mandates an in depth knowledge of developmental biology, anatomy, and pathophysiology of the cardiorespiratory system, cardiovascular pharmacology, cardiopulmonary bypass, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and other cardiac assist devices, comprehensive critical care and respiratory support, endoscopy, and invasive and non-invasive diagnostic techniques.

CCP
Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
Pediatric Critical Care Medicine focuses on advanced life support for children from the term or near term neonate to the adolescent. These physicians are concerned with the critical care management of life-threatening organ system failure from any cause in both medical and surgical patients and to the support of vital physiological functions. They also coordinate the multitude of health care plans prescribed for the patient by other involved physicians. In addition, they coordinate and order the priority of health care services provided by the Intensive Care Unit.
**PDD**
Pediatric Dermatology
Pediatric Dermatology focuses on the treatment of pediatric patients with benign and malignant disorders of the skin, mouth, external genitalia, hair and nails. It also includes a number of sexually transmitted diseases. This field also includes the treatment of skin cancers, melanomas, moles, and other tumors of the skin as well as the management of allergic and non-allergic skin disorders and infections. Surgical techniques used in dermatology and the management of cosmetic disorders of the skin as hair loss and scars are included in the scope of Pediatric Dermatology.

**PE**

**PEM**
The Pediatric Emergency Medicine physician manages emergencies in infants and children. Pediatric Emergency Medicine involves the application of knowledge in the technological advances in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric emergencies, which is enhanced by a broad understanding of child health and development.

**PDE**
Pediatric Endocrinology
A Pediatric Endocrinologist provides care to infants, children and adolescents who have diseases which result from an abnormality in the endocrine glands (glands that secrete hormones). These diseases include but are not limited to diabetes mellitus, growth failure, unusual size for age, early or late pubertal development, birth defects, the genital region, disorders of the thyroid, of the adrenal, and of the pituitary glands.

**PG**
Pediatric Gastroenterology
A Pediatric Gastroenterologist is concerned with the pathophysiology of disorders of the digestive systems of infants, children and adolescents. Pediatric Gastroenterologists clinically diagnose and medically treat these disorders. These physicians select, perform, and evaluate procedures necessary for morphological, physiological, immunological, microbiological and psychosocial assessment of gastrointestinal diseases.

**PHO**
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology is concerned with the growth and development of normal children from birth to adulthood as well as with the recognition and management of disease in these age groups. Physicians in this discipline are involved with both the basic science and clinical expression of hematologic (blood disorders) and oncologic (cancerous diseases).

**PDI**
Pediatric Infectious Disease
Pediatric Infectious Disease physicians diagnose, treat, and prevent infectious diseases in children. They participate in the process and public decision regarding recommendations for inoculations to prevent infectious diseases. They also act as consultants on how to improve the outcome for those with complicated courses, underlying diseases that predispose to unusual or severe infections, unclear diagnoses, uncommon diseases, and complex or investigational treatments. They also could take primary responsibility for an individual patient or for a group of patients with certain diseases, examples of which might be human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) infection or tuberculosis. Pediatric Infectious Disease physicians on occasion take primary care of patients with certain diagnoses in conjunction with other physicians, such as orthopedic surgeons for osteomyelitis, and neurosurgeons for shunt-related ventriculitis. Pediatric Infectious Disease physicians also provide guidelines and education for others who care for seriously ill children with infectious diseases such as neonatologists and oncologists.

**PN**
Pediatric Nephrology
Pediatric Nephrologists are concerned with children from fetal life to young adulthood. They deal with the normal and abnormal development and maturation of the kidney and the urinary tract, the mechanisms by which the kidney can be damaged, the evaluation and treatment of renal diseases, fluid and electrolyte abnormalities, hypertension, and renal replacement therapy.
PO
Pediatric Ophthalmology
Pediatric Ophthalmologists are physicians who focus on children's eye diseases and in Strabismus in children and adults.

OP
Pediatric Orthopedics
Physicians in Pediatric Orthopedics focus on the medical and surgical treatment of musculoskeletal conditions in children and youths.

PDO
Pediatric Otolaryngology
Pediatric Otolaryngologists manage infants and children with disorders that include congenital and acquired conditions involving the aerodigestive tract, nose and paranasal sinuses, the ear, and other areas of the head and neck. They diagnose, treat, and manage (including the insertion of prosthetic devices) diseases and disorders of the laryngotracheal complex, the aerodigestive tract, the nose and paranasal sinuses, the head and neck, and the ear. They diagnose, treat, and manage childhood disorders of voice, speech, language and hearing.

PP
Pediatric Pathology
Pediatric Pathologists are concerned with the laboratory diagnosis of diseases that occur during fetal growth and infant and childhood development. Pediatric Pathologists are consultant to pediatricians and all physicians involved in the care of infants and children.

PDP
Pediatric Pulmonology
are intended only for the Pediatric Pulmonologists prevent and treat respiratory diseases affecting infants, children and young adults. The discipline involves organ and cellular pathophysiology, growth and development of the lung, assessment of respiratory function in infants and children, and a variety of invasive and noninvasive diagnostic techniques and the design of clinical investigation.

PDR
Pediatric Radiology
Pediatric Radiology focuses on the pediatric application and interpretation of roentgenography, computed tomography, ultrasonography, angiography, radionuclide scintigraphy, magnetic resonance imaging and any other imaging modality included within the discipline of Diagnostic Radiology. Pediatric Radiology is concerned with the application of all forms of diagnostic imaging to the unique clinical/pathophysiologic problems of the new born, infant, child, and adolescent.

RPM
Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine is a subspecialty of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. A subspecialty certificate for Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine was approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) in 1999. For information on certificates issued and other information contact the ABMS.

PPR
Pediatric Rheumatology
Pediatric Rheumatologists treat and provide patient care for the infant, child, or adolescent with a rheumatic or related disease and participate in the prevention, understanding of the cause, and treatment of the various rheumatic disorders and promotes understanding of the basic mechanisms of the disease in the interrelated areas of immunology, genetics, inflammation, and infectious diseases.

NSP
Pediatric Surgery (Neurology)
See N Neurology
Pediatric Neurological Surgeons focus on unique aspects of nervous system diseases and disorders in infants and children, their diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, critical care and rehabilitation. The discipline involves related fields such as child neurology, pediatric neuro-oncology, neuroradiology, infectious disease as well as research. Also included is the
management of intensive care patients. Cases in the discipline include congenital disorders, neoplasia, trauma, infection and vascular disease.

PDS
Pediatric Surgery (Surgery)
Pediatric Surgeons manage surgical conditions in premature and newborn infants, children, and adolescents.

UP
Pediatric Urology
Pediatric Urology is concerned with all aspects of congenital anomalies, childhood-acquired urologic problems such as tumors and trauma, and those overlapping problems of adolescence. These physicians manage congenital anomalies and pediatric urological problems.

PD
Pediatrics
Pediatrics is concerned with the physical, emotional, and social health of children from birth to young adulthood. Pediatric care encompasses a broad spectrum of health services ranging from preventive health care to the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic diseases. Pediatrics is a discipline that deals with biological, social, and environmental influences on the developing child and with the impact of disease and dysfunction on development. Children differ from adults anatomically, physiologically, immunologically, psychologically, developmentally, and metabolically. The Pediatrician understands this constantly changing functional status of his/her patients incident to growth and development, and the consequent changing standards of "normal" for age. Pediatricians define the child's health status, serve as consultants and also use other physicians as consultants. Because children's welfare is heavily dependent on the home and family, the Pediatrician supports efforts to create a nurturing environment. Such support includes education about healthful living and anticipatory guidance for both patients and parents. A Pediatrician participates at the community level in preventing or solving problems in child health care and publicly advocates the causes of children.

PHM
Pharmaceutical Medicine
Pharmaceutical Medicine is the discipline of medicine that is devoted to the discovery, research, development and the support of ethical promotion and safe use of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, medical devices and diagnostics for the benefit of patients and public health.

PM
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, also referred to as Rehabilitation Medicine, is concerned with diagnosing, evaluating and treating patients with impairments and/or disabilities which involve musculoskeletal, neurologic, cardiovascular or other body systems. The primary focus is on maximal restoration of physical, psychological, social and vocational function and on alleviation of pain. For diagnosis and evaluation, the techniques of electromyography and electrodagnosis as supplements to the standard history, physical, x-ray and laboratory examinations may be included. In addition to traditional treatment modes the physician in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation may use therapeutic exercise, prosthetics, orthotics, and mechanical and electrical devices.

PS
Plastic Surgery
Plastic Surgery deals with the repair and reconstruction of defects of form and function of the integument and its underlying musculoskeletal system, with emphasis on the craniofacial structures, the oropharynx, the upper and lower limbs, the breast and the external genitalia. It includes aesthetic surgery of structures and undesirable form. Plastic Surgeons are involved with the design and transfer of flaps, the transplantation of tissues, and the replantation of structures. Plastic Surgery includes: excisional surgery, management of complex wounds, use of alloplastic materials, surgical design, surgical diagnosis, surgical and artistic anatomy, surgical pathology, surgical oncology, surgical physiology and pharmacology and bacteriology, biomechanics, embryology, and surgical instrumentation.

PSH
Plastic Surgery within the Head & Neck
Plastic Surgery within the Head & Neck is a subspecialty of Otolaryngology. A subspecialty certificate for PSH was approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) in 1999. For information on certificates issued and other information contact the ABMS.
Proctology
Proctology consists of and includes the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and conditions originating within or affecting the anus, rectum and colon; perianal and perirectal areas, and related or complicating conditions not including the use of major surgery.

Psychiatry
Psychiatrists prevent, diagnose, and treat mental, addictive and emotional disorders, e.g., psychoses, depression, anxiety disorders, substance abuse disorders, developmental disabilities, sexual dysfunctions, adjustment reactions, etc. Psychiatrists are involved with the biological, psychological and social components of illness. They order diagnostic laboratory tests and prescribe medications, as well as evaluate and treat psychological and interpersonal problems. Psychiatrists may intervene with individuals and families who are coping with stress crises, and other problems of living. The discipline of Psychiatry may also include psychoanalysis, psychiatric aspects of general medicine, psychopharmacology, alcohol and substance abuse, geriatrics, neuropsychiatry, forensic psychiatry.

Psychoanalysis
Psychoanalysis is a treatment that demonstrates how unconscious factors affect current relationships and patterns of behavior. Through the intimate partnership of patient and analyst, Psychoanalysis shows how these unconscious factors have changed and developed over time and helps the individual to deal better with realities of adult life. Like its adult counterpart, child and adolescent psychoanalysis is based on a common theoretical framework for understanding psychological life while using additional techniques and measures to deal with the special capabilities and vulnerabilities of children. As a general theory of individual human behavior and experience, psychoanalytic ideas enrich and are enriched by the study of biological and social sciences, group behavior, history, philosophy, art, and literature. As a developmental theory, psychoanalysis contributes to child psychology, education, law, and family studies. Through its examination of the complex relationship between body and mind, psychoanalysis also furthers our understanding of the role of emotions in health as well as in medical illness. The designation "psychoanalyst" is not protected by federal or state law; anyone, even an untrained person, may use the title.

Public Health and General Preventive Medicine
Public Health and Preventive Medicine is that specialty which focuses on the health of individuals and defined populations in order to protect, promote and maintain health and wellbeing, and to prevent disease, disability and premature death. The discipline includes:
  1. Biostatistics
  2. Epidemiology
  3. Health services administration
  4. Environmental and occupational influences on health
  5. Social and behavioral influences on health
  6. Measures which prevent the occurrence, progression and disabling effects of disease or injury.

Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine
See definitions for PUD Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine

Pulmonary Disease
Pulmonary Disease is concerned with diseases of the lungs and airways. The Pulmonologist diagnoses and treats pneumonia, cancer, pleurisy, asthma, occupational diseases, bronchitis, sleep disorders, emphysema, and other complex disorders of the lungs. Pulmonologists test lung functions in many ways, endoscope the bronchial airways and prescribe and monitor mechanical assistance to ventilation. Many pulmonary disease physicians are also expert in critical care.

Radiation Oncology
Radiation Oncology is that branch of Radiology which deals with the therapeutic applications of radiant energy and its modifiers and the study and management of disease, especially malignant tumors.
RP
Radiological Physics
Radiological Physics is that branch of medical physics which includes therapeutic radiological physics, diagnostic radiological physics, and medical nuclear physics, including radiation safety.

R
Radiology
Radiology is that branch of medicine which deals with the diagnostic and therapeutic applications of radiant energy.

REN
Reproductive Endocrinology
Reproductive Endocrinologists are physicians who, through the use of diagnostic and therapeutic resources, manage complex problems relating to reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

RHU
Rheumatology
Rheumatologists are concerned with diseases of joints, muscle, bones, and tendons. The Rheumatologist diagnoses and treats arthritis, back pain, muscle strains, common athletic injuries, and "collagen" diseases. The Rheumatologist may work closely with other physicians such as physical therapists and orthopedic surgeons.

SP
Selective Pathology
Selective Pathology is an area within Pathology. See definition for PTH Anatomic/Clinical Pathology.

SM
Sleep Medicine
Sleep Medicine is concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of patients with disorders of sleep and daytime alertness and the effect of the sleep processes upon other medical disorders.

SCI
Spinal Cord Injury Medicine
Physicians in the discipline of Spinal Cord Injury address the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of traumatic spinal cord injury and non-traumatic, myelopathies including, on a lifelong basis, the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of related medical, physical, psychosocial and vocational disabilities and complications.

ESM

FSM
Sports Medicine (Family Practice). See FP Family Practice.

ISM
Sports Medicine (Internal Medicine). See IM Internal Medicine.

PSM

PMM
Sports Medicine (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation).
The Sports Medicine physician is concerned with continuous care in the field of sports medicine, not only the enhancement of health and fitness but the prevention of injury and illness. These physicians focus on areas of medicine such as exercise physiology, biomechanics, nutrition, psychology, physical rehabilitation and epidemiology.

OSM
Sports Medicine (Orthopedic Surgery)
Orthopedic Surgery, Sports Medicine is a discipline of Orthopedics concerned with the medical and surgical treatment of musculoskeletal injuries arising from sports.
CCS
Surgical Critical Care (Surgery)
The Critical Care Surgeon manages the critically ill and postoperative patient, particularly the trauma victim, in the emergency department, intensive care unit, trauma unit, burn unit, and other similar settings.

SO
Surgical Oncology
Surgical Oncologists are surgeons who devote the majority of their professional time to the treatment of tumors.

TS
Thoracic Surgery
Thoracic Surgery focuses on the operative, per-operative care and critical care of patients with pathologic conditions within the chest. Included is the surgical care of coronary artery disease, cancers of the lung, esophagus and chest wall, abnormalities of the great vessels and heart valves, congenital anomalies, tumors of the mediastinum and diseases of the diaphragm. The management of the airway and injuries of the chest is within the scope of Thoracic Surgery.

TRS
Trauma Surgery
Trauma Surgery deals with the treatment of wounds and injuries through surgical methods.

TTS
Transplant Surgery
Transplant Surgery is that discipline of surgery which provides the non-operative and operative management of patients receiving transplanted cells, tissues, and organs as therapy for endorgan failure.

UM
Undersea Medicine & Hyperbaric Medicine
Undersea Medicine is the branch of hyperbaric medicine that deals with the effects of pressure change and gas exchange due to descending and ascending in submersion environments or in pressure chambers. Various countermeasures and diagnostic and therapeutic protocols are important aspects of this field.

U
Urology
Urologists manage benign and malignant medical and surgical disorders of the adrenal gland and of the genitourinary system. Urologists focus on endoscopic, percutaneous, and open surgery of congenital and acquired conditions of the reproductive and urinary systems and their contiguous structures.

VIR
Vascular and Interventional Radiology
Vascular and Interventional Radiologists diagnose and treat diseases using percutaneous methods guided by radiologic imaging. These physicians are concerned with the signs and symptoms of disorders amenable to diagnosis and/or treatment by these techniques. They focus on symptoms as well as the pathophysiology and natural history of the disorders, the indications for and contraindications to vascular and interventional procedures, and the clinical and technical aspects of their implementation. Vascular and Interventional Radiology physicians are concerned with the medical and surgical alternatives in these various disorders, imaging methods that include percutaneous imaging guided procedures, and the fundamentals of radiation physics, radiation biology, and radiation protection.

VM
Vascular Medicine
The Vascular Medicine physician diagnoses and treats common and uncommon vascular disorders. This encompasses vascular disease risk factors (hypertension, hyperlipidemia, homocystinemia, etc.), use of the noninvasive vascular laboratory, all forms of vascular imaging, as well as therapeutic interventions (including vasoactive drugs, thrombolytic and hemostatic agents, and revascularization techniques. These physicians provide comprehensive, integrated, long-term care for individuals with peripheral arterial disease, acute and chronic venous diseases, lymphatic disease, as well as the risk factors and end-organ consequences of these illnesses. The Vascular Medicine physician contributes to the care of all vascular medicine-based needs exclusive of surgical interventions. Some Vascular Medicine physicians may perform percutaneous arterial and venous revascularization procedures.
VN
**Vascular Neurology**
Vascular Neurology is an area of medicine in which selected neurological disorders involving the central nervous system due to ischemia or hemorrhage are assessed, monitored, treated and prevented using a combination of clinical evaluation, imaging, interventional techniques, and medication. Vascular Neurology includes the prevention, evaluation and treatment of a wide range of diseases, which include but are not limited to: cardiogenic brain embolism, large vessel atherosclerosis, aortic arch embolism, migraine, arterial dissection, genetic and metabolic disorders, intracerebral hemorrhage, spinal cord infarction, complications of vascular disease, vascular malformations, among other related diseases.

VS
**Vascular Surgery**
Vascular Surgeons manage the surgical disorders of the blood vessels excluding those immediately adjacent to the heart, lungs or brain.

TY
**Transitional Year**
The Transitional Year is designed to fulfill the educational needs of medical school graduates who (1) have chosen a career specialty for which the respective ACGME program has a prerequisite of one year of fundamental clinical education, which may also contain certain specific experiences for development of desired skills OR (2) have not yet made a career choice or specialty selection and desire a broad based year to assist them in making that decision OR (3) are planning to serve in organizations such as the public health service or on active duty in the military as general medical officers or primary flight/undersea medicine physicians prior to completing a program in graduate medical education OR desire or need to acquire at least one year of fundamental clinical education prior to entering a career path that does not require broad clinical skill, such as administrative medicine or nonclinical research.

The objective of the Transitional Year is to provide a well-balanced program of graduate medical education in multiple clinical disciplines designed to facilitate the choice of an/or preparation for a specific specialty. The transitional year is not meant to be a complete graduate education program in preparation for the practice of medicine.

The Transitional Year program must be offered by an institution and its affiliates conducting two or more ACGME programs. Two of these ACGME programs must be designated as sponsors of the transitional year. One of the sponsors must be in a discipline that provides fundamental clinical skills training such as Emergency Medicine, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Surgery.