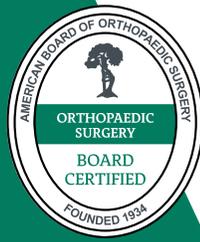


**Congratulations!**  
You have chosen a  
surgeon certified by:



## The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS)

Your bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, and related muscles and nerves are in well-trained, professional hands. **We're here to reduce your pain and help keep you moving.**

### What is the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery?

The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) is an independent, non-profit organization that sets standards of education, training, and expertise for orthopaedic surgeons. The exams and assessment activities are written by orthopaedic surgeons who also must meet the standards set by their peers. These ABOS directors volunteer their time and expertise.

Founded in 1934, ABOS is one of 24 members of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Certifying boards serve the public and the medical profession by improving the quality of health care through setting professional standards for medical specialty practice.

Being **“certified”** is not the same as being **“licensed.”** A state requirement to practice medicine, licensure sets minimum competence requirements to diagnose and treat patients and is not specialty specific.

Board certification is voluntary. Being certified attests to a physician's advanced knowledge, skills, and training in a particular area of medicine, like orthopaedic surgery.

Find out if a physician is board-certified at [abos.org](http://abos.org)

### When Should I Choose an Orthopaedic Surgeon?

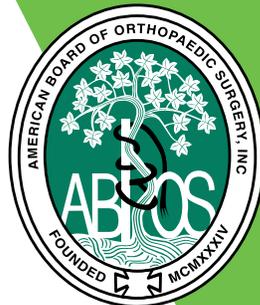
Choose an orthopaedic surgeon whenever you have pain, injury or disease affecting your musculoskeletal system – bones, joints, cartilage, muscles, ligaments, and tendons.

Injuries that an orthopaedic surgeon treats include broken bones, sprains and strains, spinal injury, and joint damage, often resulting from accidents, falls, sports, or work.

Diseases and conditions that orthopaedic surgeons treat include arthritis, osteoporosis, chronic back pain, joint pain, sciatica, and degenerative disc disease. They also treat club foot, bowlegs, hip dysplasia, bunions, and bone tumors.

While they are trained surgeons, orthopaedists will explore nonsurgical options first, including medications and/or rehabilitation. They may help you prevent injuries or conditions by recommending physical therapy, stretching, or even using a different pillow or shoes.

Only those who are Board Certified by the ABOS are allowed to display the logo that is shown at the top of this page.



### The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, Inc.

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[www.abos.org](http://www.abos.org)  
[mycertifiedorthopaedicsurgeon.org](http://mycertifiedorthopaedicsurgeon.org)



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## Areas of focus for Orthopaedic Surgeons

Orthopaedic surgeons may treat a general range of injuries and conditions, or they may focus on one or more of these areas:

- Pediatric orthopaedics
- Adult reconstructive surgery (including joint replacement)
- Foot and ankle
- Shoulder and Elbow
- Spine
- Oncology (cancerous and non-cancerous tumors of the bones, joints, and muscles)
- Rehabilitation to increase strength and mobility

Some Orthopaedic Surgeons complete an additional year of training an additional subspecialty certification from the ABOS in:

- Orthopaedic Sports Medicine
- Hand Surgery

## Why should I choose a surgeon certified by the ABOS?

The ABOS' purpose is to assure you, the patient, that your board-certified surgeon meets high standards of knowledge, training, and competence to provide outstanding care.

### ABOS-Certified Orthopaedic Surgeons are well trained.

- They have graduated from an accredited medical school.
- They have received 5 years of training in an accredited orthopaedic surgery residency program.

### ABOS-Certified Orthopaedic Surgeons have been carefully evaluated.

- They sit for an 8-hour computer-based examination.
- After 9-12 months of practice, their medical abilities and professionalism are reviewed by their peers (other doctors and nurses they have worked with directly), who send their evaluations to the ABOS. Only those rated positively are allowed to continue in the certification process.
- They are given an oral examination by certified Orthopaedic Surgeons who assess the candidate's orthopaedic skills and competence, based on 12 of his/her recent cases.

After passing the oral examination, a physician receives ABOS Board Certification, and patients like you can be confident your orthopaedic surgeon is well-prepared to offer you high-quality care.

### ABOS-Certified Orthopaedic Surgeons Stay Up-to-Date throughout Their Careers

- Board-Certified orthopaedic surgeons maintain their certification through continuing medical education activities and practice improvement projects that help ensure they stay informed of medical advances and new best practices in the field.
- Once every 10 years, they submit a list of recent surgeries to other ABOS-certified Orthopaedic Surgeons who review and evaluate the quality of their work as well as have their medical abilities and professionalism reviewed by other orthopaedic surgeons
- They also must complete an oral, written, or continuing knowledge assessment to renew their certification.

## Our Mission

To ensure safe, ethical, and effective practice of orthopaedic surgery, the ABOS maintains the highest standards for education, practice and conduct through examination, certification, and maintenance of certification for the benefit of the public.

## Our Vision

To improve the quality of care and outcomes for patients, the ABOS will establish and maintain high standards for competence and lifelong education of board-certified orthopaedic surgeons.

