

What You Need to Know About the New MDS Subspecialty



Beginning in 2021, the American Board of Dermatology (ABD) will offer the opportunity for dermatologists to become board certified in Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS).

Who is eligible?

Potential candidates must meet the following four requirements:



1. Licensed: Possess a current, valid, full and unrestricted license to practice in at least one state or province within the U.S. or Canada;



2. Certified: Hold primary certification in general dermatology from ABD;



3. Up-to-Date: Be up to date with continuing certification requirements if certification by ABD is time-limited; and,



4a. Fellowship-Trained: Complete an ACGME-approved MSDO fellowship and pass the Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery subspecialty certification exam.

Or:



4b. Self-attest to active practice of micrographic surgery as part of one's patient care activities and pass the Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery subspecialty certification exam.*

*The self-attestation pathway will be available for five years, until 2025. Afterwards, any dermatologist who wishes to become certified in MDS must complete the ACGME fellowship in MSDO to be able to sit for the subspecialty exam.

Pathways to MDS Subspecialty Certification:

Fellowship Training

- Graduate from an ACGME-approved 3-year dermatology residency
- Become a board-certified dermatologist and maintain certification
- **Complete one-year ACGME-approved MSDO fellowship**
- Pass MDS subspecialty certifying exam and maintain certification*

**First opportunity to take exam is in 2021*

Self-Attestation

- Graduate from an ACGME-approved 3-year dermatology residency
- Become a board-certified dermatologist and maintain certification
- **Self-attest to active practice of micrographic surgery as part of one's patient care activities****
- Pass MDS subspecialty certifying exam and maintain certification*

**First opportunity to take exam is in 2021*

***Option available until 2025*

Implementation Timeline:



2018

ABD submits request to the American Board of Medical Specialties to create the new MDS subspecialty, following an extended public comment period.



2019-2021

Volunteer dermatologists will draft and submit MDS exam questions.



2021

MDS subspecialty certification exam will be available to ABD diplomates who meet the necessary criteria.



2025

Last opportunity for certification through the self-attestation pathway

