



MAKING SENSE OF CERTIFICATION *

Almost everyone has heard that they should look for "board certification" when seeking a qualified plastic surgeon (or any other physician for that matter). Most people don't really understand exactly what this means and what is involved in becoming "board certified."

Even fewer people know about certification of operating facilities, who certifies them and what protection such certification offers. We believe patients need this information to make informed choices in their search for the right surgeon, surgery facility and anesthesia provider.

At our office, we have gone to great effort to ensure the highest standard of safety for our patients. As you consider plastic surgery, we hope the following information will help you to evaluate the choices available to you.

CERTIFICATION OF YOUR SURGEON

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is the agency which oversees subspecialty boards. More than 100 "boards" have been submitted to the ABMS for formal approval, but only 24 have met their strict educational and examination criteria. They are as follows:

Allergy and Immunology	Orthopaedic Surgery
Anesthesiology	Otolaryngology (ear, nose & throat)
Colon and Rectal Surgery	Pathology
Dermatology	Pediatrics
Emergency Medicine	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Family Practice	Plastic Surgery*
Internal Medicine	Preventive Medicine
Medical Genetics	Psychiatry and Neurology
Neurological Surgery	Radiology
Nuclear Medicine	Surgery
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Thoracic Surgery
Ophthalmology	Urology

** The American Board of Plastic Surgery is the only ABMS board that has traditionally overseen the training and certification of cosmetic and reconstructive surgeons.*

You may call the ABMS at 1-866-275-2267 to see if your surgeon is certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery. Give them the name of your surgeon and they will tell you if and when he or she was certified. Certification by other boards does not give you the same protection. Other boards have less strict criteria for certification and some require only a fee. A few of the boards which have not been approved by the ABMS are as follows:

Aesthetic Plastic Surgery	Plastic Esthetic Surgery
Cosmetic Plastic Surgery	Dermatologic Surgery
Facial Cosmetic Surgery	Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery

You may also want to call the local hospital and ask the Medical Staff Office secretary whether your surgeon has privileges to perform the proposed procedures in the hospital.



ANESTHESIA OPTIONS

Whenever you are heavily sedated or have general anesthesia, you must be in competent trained hands. Much of that responsibility falls to the person administering the medications and monitoring your vital signs. You need to know the qualifications of the person assuming that responsibility. Their training can range from specialization after earning a medical degree (anesthesiologists) to specialization after nursing training (nurse anesthetists) to nursing training only.

Aestique uses board-certified anesthesiologists and CRNAs for all of our general anesthesia and for monitored anesthesia care.

OTHER ANESTHESIA PROVIDERS

CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST (CRNA): A CRNA is an RN who has completed an additional two years of specialized training in anesthesiology. Their certification is also overseen by each state's Board of Nursing. In contrast to an RN, a CRNA is able to administer general anesthesia.

YOUR SURGEON: In some centers your surgeon may actually be the person administering the medications to make you drowsy during your surgery. Almost never does he or she personally monitor your vital signs. This is usually done by a member of his or her staff, most often a nurse.

CERTIFICATION OF THE OPERATING FACILITY

The Aestique® Ambulatory Surgery Center, Inc. is Licensed as a multi-specialty surgical center by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Certified by the federal Medicare Program and Accredited by the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF).

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF AMBULATORY SURGERY FACILITIES.

This accreditation certifies that the surgery facility meets nationally recognized standards through an accreditation program operated by the experts who set and evaluate the standards.