

DEFINITION OF A BOARD CERTIFIED COLON AND RECTAL SURGEON

Adapted from the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery & American Board of Surgery Websites

A board certified colon and rectal surgeon has successfully completed at least a five year Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved training program in general surgery and one additional year in an ACGME approved colon and rectal surgery residency. He/she has then passed both the Written (Qualifying) and Oral (Certifying) Examinations given by the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery also known as the ABCRS. A specific level of skill, expertise and fundamental knowledge must be demonstrated in addition to obtaining recommendations from peers and leaders in the field.

The ABCRS requires certification by the American Board of Surgery for all candidates entering the examination process. Therefore, most colon and rectal surgeons have two board certifications.

The American Board of Surgery (ABS) is an independent, non-profit organization for the purpose of certifying surgeons who have met a defined standard of education, training & knowledge. The ABS is one of the 24 member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties. The ABS strives to ensure surgeons have the skills and experience to take care of you and your family.

In addition to having proficiency in the field of general surgery, colon and rectal surgeons have acquired particular skills & knowledge with regard to the medical and surgical management of diseases of the intestinal tract, colon and rectum, anal canal, and perianal area. Colon and rectal surgical specialists have special skills in the performance of endoscopic procedures of the rectum and colon. Colon and rectal surgical residency programs now provide training in minimally invasive abdominal surgery involving the colon and rectum.

A colon and rectal surgeon has been trained to deal with conditions such as, but not limited to colon and rectal cancer, colorectal polyps, inflammatory bowel disease (example Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis), diverticulitis or diverticulosis, as well as common anal conditions such as hemorrhoids, fissures, abscesses, and fistulas. Training in colon and rectal surgery also provides the specialist with in-depth knowledge of intestinal and anorectal physiology required for the treatment of problems such as constipation and fecal incontinence.

Board certified colon and rectal surgeons are committed to the highest standards of care for patients having specific diseases affecting the intestinal system. They can take care of the simplest and most complex surgical diseases of the colon, rectum and anus.

Ask your surgeon if he or she is board certified in general surgery **and** colorectal surgery.

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