

# Your Surgeon is Certified in Surgery of the Hand by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery

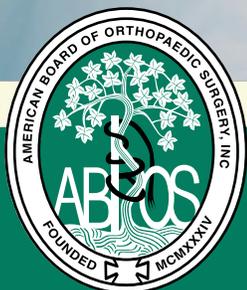
## What is Orthopaedic Surgery?

Orthopaedic Surgery is the broad-based medical and surgical specialty dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases and injuries of the musculoskeletal system. The frequency and impact of these diseases and injuries, combined with recent advances in their diagnosis and treatment, make orthopaedics a critical part of health care.



## Who are Hand Surgeons?

Hand surgeons specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of problems related to the hand and upper limb. They have received additional, specialized training to treat this part of the body.



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

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

## What is the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery?

The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) was founded in 1934 as a private, voluntary, nonprofit, independent organization to serve the best interests of the public and the medical profession. These interests are achieved by the ABOS through establishing standards for the education of orthopaedic surgeons and providing high-stakes examinations.

The ABOS is one of 24 certifying boards that have met the educational and organizational requirements necessary for membership in the American Board of Medical Specialties. The Directors of the ABOS are distinguished, practicing orthopaedic surgeons who are active in patient care, education, and research, and who volunteer their service.

## What is Board Certification?

Prior to earning a Surgery of the Hand Subspecialty Certificate, your surgeon had to earn a General Certificate from the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. The requirements for earning a General Certificate include:

### Education

- Must have graduated from an accredited medical school and passed all examinations necessary to receive an unrestricted medical license.
- Must have satisfactorily completed a five-year ACGME accredited orthopaedic surgery residency in the United States or Canada. The residency training must include experience with all age groups in operative and non-operative treatment of musculoskeletal injuries, diseases, and deformities.

### Examination

After completing residency, orthopaedic surgeons are required to meet the following criteria to become certified by the ABOS:

- Have a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States, its territories, government service, or Canada.
- Pass the comprehensive computer-based ABOS Part I examination, testing the material taught during residency.
- Have completed 20 months of practice of operative orthopaedic surgery after successfully completing residency and in some cases a fellowship.
- Have demonstrated professional proficiency and ethical practice based on recommendations from physicians familiar with his/her practice.
- Pass the ABOS Part II Oral Examination, based on a surgeon's six-month list of operative cases.

### Continuing Education

After earning certification, orthopaedic surgeons continue to receive medical education through:

- Continuing medical education activities.
- Practice improvement activities.

*Only those who are Board Certified by the ABOS and have a Surgery of the Hand Subspecialty Certification are allowed to display the logo that is shown on the front cover of this brochure.*

## What Does it Mean to be Subspecialty Certified by the ABOS?

Certification by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery means that the orthopaedic surgeon has met the specified educational, evaluation, and examination requirements of the Board. Earning a Subspecialty Certificate shows the additional work your surgeon has done. ABOS Board Certification is the most widely recognized standard of achievement for orthopaedic surgery in the United States.

Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeons with a Subspecialty Certificate in Surgery of the Hand provide both surgical and nonsurgical treatments for issues related to the hand. They also work in the prevention of injuries. Some conditions they treat are wrist and hand fractures as well as complex nerve and tendon disorders of the hand and upper limb including carpal tunnel syndrome and nerve and tendon lacerations. All have earned the additional designation from the ABOS.

## What is a Surgery of the Hand Subspecialty Certificate?

The Subspecialty Certificate in Surgery of the Hand is for ABOS Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeons who have demonstrated qualifications in Surgery of the Hand beyond those expected of other Orthopaedic Surgeons. These qualifications include additional training, a practice characterized by a volume of cases in Surgery of the Hand, and/or significant contributions made to this field.

The requirements for earning a Subspecialty Certificate include:

- Being ABOS Board Certified.
- Completing a Surgery of the Hand Fellowship from an institution accredited by the ACGME.
- Submitting a list of surgical cases demonstrating experience in Surgery of the Hand.
- Demonstrating knowledge by completing a four-hour written examination covering all aspects of Surgery of the Hand.

*Every 10 years, they must be reviewed by their peers, submit a case list, and take an assessment*

### Mission Statement

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.

### 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.