

## Support from the American Medical Association (AMA)

Dr. Jeremy Lazarus, as President-elect of the AMA, stated in a letter to the ABPh (now known as the ABVLM):

*“I wanted to send this note of congratulations, as both a physician and President-elect of the AMA, to you and the leadership of the American Board of [Venous & Lymphatic Medicine]. I am impressed with the effort to establish a core content document in venous disease.*

*Efforts to increase professional standards in medicine are something both the AMA and I vigorously support.... I wish you all the best in the pursuit of your goal – the elevation of professional standards of care for venous disease patients.”*



To learn more about the ABVLM and to find out if your physician is a Diplomate, please visit our website:  
[www.ABVLM.org](http://www.ABVLM.org)



**THE AMERICAN BOARD OF  
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## Your Physician is a Diplomate of the American Board of Venous & Lymphatic Medicine



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Diplomates are physicians who have passed the most comprehensive examination of knowledge in vein disease available today, and met all other requirements of the American Board of Venous & Lymphatic Medicine (ABVLM).

Not all physicians who treat vein disorders are diplomates of the ABVLM. Becoming a diplomate is voluntary and helps to demonstrate a physician's commitment to quality care of the venous and lymphatic patient.

### What is Venous and Lymphatic Medicine?

Venous and lymphatic medicine is the discipline that involves the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic venous disorders, including varicose veins, venous edema, chronic venous insufficiency with skin changes, venous leg ulcers, deep venous disease, pelvic venous insufficiency syndromes, congenital venous malformations, venous thromboembolism, lymphedema and other disorders of venous and lymphatic origin.

#### Physician Perspective

*"Certification in venous and lymphatic medicine demonstrates my commitment to providing quality patient care combined with a solid foundation of proven knowledge."*

– ABVLM Diplomate (L.E. M.D.)

Venous and lymphatic medicine specialists can come from many different medical backgrounds, and not all are diplomates of the ABVLM.



### What is the ABVLM?

The ABVLM was initially established as the American Board of Phlebology (ABPh) in 2007, in part because of the diversity of training within the various medical specialties in regards to venous disease. It was renamed in 2013 to more clearly communicate the scope of the specialty. The ABVLM's mission is to advance the care of patients with venous and lymphatic disorders by improving the quality of practitioners treating them. In order to accomplish this, the ABVLM has developed a core curriculum and standardized one-year medical fellowship program for treating venous and lymphatic disease, as well as an examination process to demonstrate competence, and requires of its diplomates a commitment to lifelong learning and assessment.

### How Does a Physician Become a Diplomate of the ABVLM?

Physicians must first qualify to take the examination. The ABVLM examination is open to licensed

physicians in the U.S. or Canada who meet rigorous prerequisite qualifications. They then must pass a computer-based examination comprised of approximately 200 multiple-choice questions in the following categories: basic science, venous and lymphatic diseases and syndromes, diagnostic tools and screening, duplex ultrasound and other imaging modalities, treatment, and professional standards.

### Lifelong Learning & Assessment

Once a physician becomes a Diplomate of the ABVLM, they must participate in maintenance of certification (MOC) – ongoing educational requirements to demonstrate their continued knowledge of and commitment to venous and lymphatic medicine.

The MOC program requires that diplomates earn 90 hours of AMA-approved Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits in vein and lymphatic care during their 10-year certification period. Credits are earned by attending medical meetings, by participating in online education, or by reading peer-reviewed journal articles.

#### Patient Perspective

*"Choosing a doctor was difficult because there were so many vein clinics. It gave me confidence that my doctor was certified in treating my veins."*

– Avery G.