



THE AMERICAN BOARD OF VENOUS & LYMPHATIC MEDICINE

FAQ's for Diplomates

Congratulations on your certification! This Q & A document should serve as a guide when planning to promote your new status as a certified vein specialist. Any questions may be directed to ABVLM Headquarters at (877) 699-4114 or info@ABVLM.org.

1) What is my new designation, or are there any titles or names that are appropriate to identify myself as having passed the Certification Exam in Venous & Lymphatic Medicine?

- In 2019, the ABVLM approved the use of “DABVLM” as an appellation for diplomate use to identify Diplomates of the ABVLM.
- Typically you may write, in various combinations, some form of the below...

William Smith, MD, DABVLM
ABVLM Diplomate

William Smith, MD, DABVLM
Certified by the American Board of Venous & Lymphatic Medicine

William Smith, MD, DABVLM
American Board of Venous & Lymphatic Medicine Diplomate

- The following are inappropriate.

William Smith, MD, ~~ABVLM~~ This is not correct, as the appellation is DABVLM.

William Smith, MD, ~~FABVLM~~ This is not correct, as there are no Fellows of the ABVLM.

William Smith, MD, ~~FAVLS~~ This is not correct. FAVLS is used by the American Vein and Lymphatic Society to indicate Fellow status. You could only use this if you had AVLS Fellow status independently, unrelated to the ABVLM.

William Smith, MD, ~~FACPh~~ This is not correct. FACPh was formerly used by the AVLS to indicate Fellow status. They now use FAVLS.

2) May I use the ABVLM Logo on my advertising?

- No. **The ABVLM policy** is to not allow the use of its logo on letterhead, business cards, websites or any other promotional vehicles produced by ABVLM Diplomates or others without written approval from the Board of Directors or its representative. In addition, when use is granted in writing the logo may not be altered in any way except in a manner specifically approved in writing by ABVLM.
- However, the ABVLM has created a digital graphic (pictured at right) that diplomates CAN use in those types of promotional materials. The seal is free to create, and can be found in the Diplomates Only area of the ABVLM website.





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- 3) May I now be a FELLOW of the American Vein & Lymphatic Society?
 - ABVLM Diplomates must contact the Membership Department at the AVLS (www.MyAVLS.org) to apply for FELLOW status. There are other criteria required, including ABVLM Diplomate status.

- 4) How many have taken and passed the exam?
 - Since its inception in 2008 and as of the 2020 exam cycle, 1036 physicians have sat for the exam and 894 have passed the exam (86%).
 - Pass rates by year are available upon request.

- 5) How many other physicians passed in my state or area/region?
 - You may search for certified Diplomates in your area at www.ABVLM.org.

Please Note: We strongly recommend that advertising states *facts*. Per ABVLM Policy, you must keep region-specific information outside of any advertising. For instance, saying that you are the only certified vein specialist in your state or region is precluded by policy, as the validity of this type of statement could change over time. Please also consult your state and local regulations regarding advertisements that promote your successful completion of a certification program.

- 6) What must I do to maintain my certification?
 - Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements are published on the ABVLM website, mailed to each new diplomate, and diplomates or their staff can contact the ABVLM HQ Office for details of the MOC program.

However, the three activities each diplomate must perform, starting in the year after they successfully passed the exam, to maintain their certification are:

- Earn and report via the “Diplomate portal” an average of 10 CME credits per year in VLM, some of which can be Type 2 CME;
- Participate in the Online Learning & Assessment (OLA) program, answering 4 exam-style questions per month; and
- Remit a MOC fee annually.

*The information in this document is considered current as of **March 31, 2021** and is subject to change. Diplomates must adhere to these guidelines as they are listed now and as they may be amended over time. Feel free to contact the ABVLM at any time for a current copy.*