

Subject: International Academy of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine Credentials and Primary-Source Verification

Dear Members of the Board:

The International Academy of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine recognizes general chiropractic practice as the essential foundation upon which advanced clinical expertise is built. The Academy fully supports the educational standards established through the Council on Chiropractic Education, the competency assessment processes administered by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, and the statutory and regulatory oversight provided by state chiropractic licensing boards. The Academy shares the boards' first obligation: the protection of the public.

Purpose of This Communication

One pattern in professional advertising prompts this communication. Some practitioners describe themselves as board certified on the basis of licensure credentials alone, using statements such as "board certified by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners" or "board certified by the Illinois State Medical Board."

The Academy holds those examinations and licenses in the highest regard. They establish the entry-level competence required of every Doctor of Chiropractic, and nothing in this communication diminishes them. However, they do not constitute specialty board certification.

Across the health professions, board certification identifies a practitioner who has completed structured postgraduate education, passed examination by a certifying board, and maintained the credential over time. When a provider's licensure is advertised as board certification, the public is invited to read advanced specialty training into a credential that attests to something different, and your board's name becomes associated with a certification that you do not issue. The Academy's position is that such statements misrepresent both the practitioner's qualifications and your board's role.

This communication describes the Academy, its credentialing standards, its relationship to chiropractic orthopedic and neuromusculoskeletal medicine credentials, and the primary-source verification it offers when questions arise regarding Diplomate, Fellow, or related specialty credentials.

The FCLB directory identifies "chiropractic physician" among the professional terms recognized in Illinois. That state-specific terminology makes precision about the distinction between licensure and postgraduate specialty certification especially important in public-facing credential claims.

About the IANM

The IANM is an independent certification and accreditation body dedicated to advancing standards in neuromusculoskeletal medicine and chiropractic orthopedics. The Academy develops, administers, and maintains board certification programs, subspecialty certifications, fellowships, and Continuing Clinical Competence programs for qualified healthcare professionals practicing in nonsurgical neuromusculoskeletal medicine.

IANM specialty education and certification are not intended to replace general chiropractic licensure, alter state scope-of-practice laws, or supersede the authority of any licensing board. Rather, IANM credentials represent an advanced educational and certification continuum built upon the foundational competencies expected of every licensed Doctor of Chiropractic.

The Academy examines, certifies, and recredentials specialists who evaluate and manage patients with neuromusculoskeletal disorders, spinal and extremity conditions, pain syndromes, and related biomechanical dysfunctions using evidence-based, patient-centered approaches. The Academy also accredits or recognizes qualifying educational and training entities that meet its standards, including residency-based and academic postgraduate programs.

Credential Continuity and Standards

The IANM is the successor organization to the American Academy of Chiropractic Orthopedists and the American Board of Chiropractic Orthopedists. Those organizations no longer function independently. The Academy maintains their credentialing records and can verify legacy Diplomate (DABCO) and Fellow (FACO) credentials from those records.

Upon request, and after review for compliance with current IANM standards, prior credentials associated with those organizations may be considered for equivalency, recognition, or transition into current IANM credentialing pathways.

IANM credentials are intended to identify practitioners who have completed recognized postgraduate education, examination, certification, and Continuing Clinical Competence requirements. These credentials should be represented accurately and used only in accordance with applicable state law, board rules, advertising regulations, and professional standards. The Academy's expectations for accurate representation are published in the "Use of Credentials" policy on the Academy website.

The Academy's certification and accreditation standards are available at www.ianmmedicine.org, including the "About the IANM" section and the "Pillars of Practice" document, along with the Academy's leadership roster and diplomate directory.

The Academy's certification and fellowship standards are maintained by board-certified Diplomate and Fellow faculty. IANM applies uniform credentialing standards to domestic and international candidates, including review of educational equivalency where applicable.

Credential Verification and Board Assistance

The Academy provides credential consultation and primary-source verification for boards, agencies, institutions, insurers, and other entities seeking to confirm whether an individual holds an active and recognized IANM credential.

We respectfully ask the Board to:

Retain the Academy's contact information for credential questions.

Verify a claimed IANM, DABCO, or FACO credential with the Academy before crediting it.

Refer questions concerning the use or misuse of these credentials to the Academy.

Verification requests may be directed to admin@ianmmedicine.org or [844-532-2378](tel:844-532-2378). We stand ready to assist. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger A. Russell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large "R" and "A" being prominent.

Roger A. Russell, DC, MS, FIANM

President, International Academy of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine

Board Certified, Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine

Masters, Biomechanical Trauma

Accident Reconstructionist (NUTI)

DIR Designated Rating Physician