

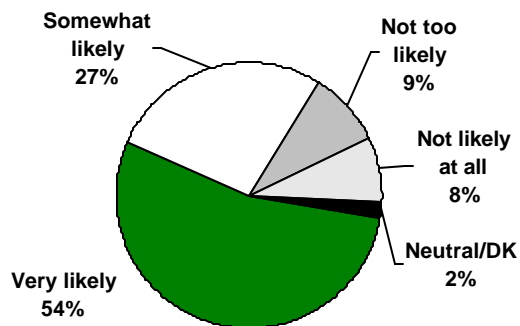
Key Findings of Gallup Survey:

“Awareness of and Attitudes Toward Board-Certification of Physicians”

As part of a larger study on certification and maintenance of certification published in *JAMA*, September 1, 2004 (292: 1038-1043), the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) commissioned the Gallup Organization to poll the general public about their views on physician credentialing. A total of 1001 adults responded to a ten-minute telephone survey designed and carried out by Gallup in July 2003. The overall response rate was 43.5%, within the expected range for this type of public opinion research. Key findings of the poll are presented below. For a complete report on the survey, please email Leslie Goode of the ABIM at lgoode@abim.org, or visit www.abim.org or www.abms.org.

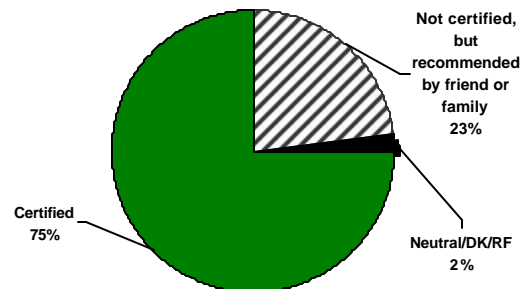
1. Likelihood of Finding Another Doctor if Current Doctor's Certification Has Expired

When asked how likely they would be to find a new doctor if they knew their doctor's board certification had expired, more than half (54%) said they would be very likely to do so. Another 27% reported they would be "somewhat likely." Seventeen percent would not be likely to change doctors.



2. Preference Between Board-Certified Physician vs. Recommendation of Trusted Friend/Family Member

When given the choice between a board-certified physician and a physician who was not board certified but was recommended by a trusted friend or family member, 75% opted for the board-certified physician, while 23% select the physician who was recommended by a friend or family member.



3. Importance of Continued Evaluations/Ratings of Doctors In Practice

Continuing evaluations after a doctor has started practicing medicine appear to be very important to a majority of the adult public. Respondents were asked to consider doctors already practicing medicine and rate the importance of certain aspects in assuring them that the doctor continues to be qualified. Approximately two-thirds (68%) rate as very important that doctors periodically pass a written test of medical knowledge or have high success rates for diseases/conditions they treat most often. Nearly three-fourths (73%) rate as very important that doctors are re-evaluated on their qualifications every so many years.

	Very Important				Not Important at All		DK/RF %	Total %	MEAN
	"5" %	"4" %	"3" %	"2" %	"1" %				
Being re-evaluated on their qualifications every so many years	73	17	7	1	2	0	100	4.6	
Periodically passing a written test of medical knowledge	68	19	9	2	2	0	100	4.5	
Having high success rates for disease or conditions they treat most often	68	20	8	2	1	1	100	4.5	

Being re-evaluated on their qualifications every so many years

Periodically passing a written test of medical knowledge

Having high success rates for disease or conditions they treat most often