



Patricia E. McSorley, JD, Executive Director
Arizona Medical Board
1740 W. Adams East
Suite 4000
Phoenix, AZ, 85007

Dear Ms. McSorley,

The Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) is the national physician specialty organization with over 7,000 members representing Interventional Radiologists in the US. Interventional Radiology (IR) is an innovative specialty that uses imaging guidance to perform minimally invasive procedures on almost every organ system and has developed techniques to treat diseases ranging from liver cancer to uterine fibroids. Interventional radiologists are clinical physicians who serve a critical role in caring for the sickest patients.

In 2012, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) recognized Interventional Radiology as an independent specialty requiring “competence in imaging, image-guided minimally invasive procedures and peri-procedural patient care to diagnose and treat benign and malignant conditions of the thorax, abdomen, pelvis, and extremities.” Prior to this, vascular and interventional radiology (VIR) was considered a subspecialty of diagnostic radiology.

Today, the primary specialty of Interventional Radiology has a unique GME residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), as well as a unique and independent board certification (the Interventional Radiology/Diagnostic Radiology (IR/DR) certificate) from the American Board of Radiology. The IR/DR certificate is one of four primary certificates offered by the ABR and is separate and distinct from a primary certificate in Diagnostic Radiology (DR). Newly certified IRs, as well as those previously holding both a DR primary certificate and an IR Certificate of Added Qualifications, began receiving IR/DR certification on October 15, 2017.

We are pleased to see that Arizona has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

This is particularly important given the highly clinical and procedural nature of the specialty, which is as different from diagnostic radiology as it is from other primary specialties. IRs are being denied admission to insurance networks simply because the state licensing database has not been updated to show IRs as a primary specialty. Unless an IR can designate him or herself correctly, networks may believe they have a satisfactory complement of physicians when they are actually limiting patient access to interventional radiologists.

Furthermore, patients who seek IR care are confused when their physician is listed incorrectly as a diagnostic radiologist, yet the patient is scheduled for an invasive procedure or clinical evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input to your Board. If SIR can provide additional information please do not hesitate to contact Susan Sedory, SIR's Executive Director, at (703) 691-1805, or ssedory@sirweb.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Victoria Marx".

M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President



Karen Whatley, JD, Executive Secretary
Arkansas State Medical Board
1401 West Capitol Avenue
Suite 340
Victory Bldg.
Little Rock, AR, 72201-2936

Dear Ms. Whatley,

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We are pleased to see that Arkansas has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

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M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President



Claudia Kemp, JD, Executive Director Department of Health
Florida Board of Medicine
4052 Bald Cypress Way
BIN #C03
Tallahassee, FL, 32399-3253

Dear Ms. Kemp,

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We are pleased to see that Florida has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

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M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President



Anne K. Lawler, JD, RN, Executive Director
Idaho Board of Medicine
1755 Westgate Drive
Suite 140
Boise, ID, 83704-7190

Dear Ms. Lawler,

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We are pleased to see that Idaho has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

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M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President



Jessica A. Baer, JD, Acting Director, Medical Disciplinary Unit
Illinois Board of Professional Regulation
100 W. Randolph Street
Suite 9-300
James R. Thompson Center
Chicago, IL, 60601

Dear Ms. Baer,

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We are pleased to see that Illinois has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

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M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President



Mark E. Bowden, MPA, CMBE, Executive Director
Iowa Board of Medicine
400 SW 8th St
Suite C
Des Moines, IA, 50309-4686

Dear Mr. Bowden,

The Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) is the national physician specialty organization with over 7,000 members representing Interventional Radiologists in the US. Interventional Radiology (IR) is an innovative specialty that uses imaging guidance to perform minimally invasive procedures on almost every organ system and has developed techniques to treat diseases ranging from liver cancer to uterine fibroids. Interventional radiologists are clinical physicians who serve a critical role in caring for the sickest patients.

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We are pleased to see that Iowa has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

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M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President



Kathleen J. Selzler Lippert, JD, CMBE, Executive Director
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts
800 SW Jackson
Lower Level-Suite A
Topeka, KS, 66612

Dear Ms. Lippert,

The Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) is the national physician specialty organization with over 7,000 members representing Interventional Radiologists in the US. Interventional Radiology (IR) is an innovative specialty that uses imaging guidance to perform minimally invasive procedures on almost every organ system and has developed techniques to treat diseases ranging from liver cancer to uterine fibroids. Interventional radiologists are clinical physicians who serve a critical role in caring for the sickest patients.

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We are pleased to see that Kansas has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

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M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President



Ruth M. Martinez, MA, Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Medical Practice
2829 University Ave. SE
Suite 500
University Park Plaza
Minneapolis, MN, 55414-3246

Dear Ms. Pezon,

The Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) is the national physician specialty organization with over 7,000 members representing Interventional Radiologists in the US. Interventional Radiology (IR) is an innovative specialty that uses imaging guidance to perform minimally invasive procedures on almost every organ system and has developed techniques to treat diseases ranging from liver cancer to uterine fibroids. Interventional radiologists are clinical physicians who serve a critical role in caring for the sickest patients.

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We are pleased to see that Minnesota has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

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M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President



Edward O. Cousineau, JD, Executive Director
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
9600 Gateway Drive
Reno, NV, 89521-8953

Dear Mr. Cousineau,

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We are pleased to see that Nevada has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

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M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President



R. David Henderson, JD, CMBE, Chief Executive Officer
North Carolina Medical Board
P.O. Box 20007
Raleigh, NC, 27619-0007

Dear Mr. Henderson,

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We are pleased to see that North Carolina has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

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M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President



Lyle R. Kelsey, MBA, CAE, CMBE, Executive Director
Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision
P.O. Box 18256
Oklahoma City, OK, 73154-0256

Dear Mr. Kelsey,

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We are pleased to see that Oklahoma has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

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Kathleen Haley, JD, CMBE, Executive Director
Oregon Medical Board
1500 SW 1st Ave.
Suite 620
Portland, OR, 97201-5815

Dear Ms. Haley,

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Mark Spangler, MA, LPC, Executive Director
West Virginia Board of Medicine
101 Dee Drive
Suite 103
Charleston, WV, 25311

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Today, the primary specialty of Interventional Radiology has a unique GME residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), as well as a unique and independent board certification (the Interventional Radiology/Diagnostic Radiology (IR/DR) certificate) from the American Board of Radiology. The IR/DR certificate is one of four primary certificates offered by the ABR and is separate and distinct from a primary certificate in Diagnostic Radiology (DR). Newly certified IRs, as well as those previously holding both a DR primary certificate and an IR Certificate of Added Qualifications, began receiving IR/DR certification on October 15, 2017.

We are pleased to see that West Virginia has updated its list of specialties and allows physicians to select Interventional Radiology as their primary practice area.

This is particularly important given the highly clinical and procedural nature of the specialty, which is as different from diagnostic radiology as it is from other primary specialties. IRs are being denied admission to insurance networks simply because the state licensing database has not been updated to show IRs as a primary specialty. Unless an IR can designate him or herself correctly, networks may believe they have a satisfactory complement of physicians when they are actually limiting patient access to interventional radiologists.

Furthermore, patients who seek IR care are confused when their physician is listed incorrectly as a diagnostic radiologist, yet the patient is scheduled for an invasive procedure or clinical evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input to your Board. If SIR can provide additional information please do not hesitate to contact Susan Sedory, SIR's Executive Director, at (703) 691-1805, or ssedory@sirweb.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Victoria Marx".

M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
President