The American Medical Association (AMA) publishes the Physician Masterfile, which includes information on physicians' specialties and areas of practice. The Masterfile is used for various purposes, including coding for insurance claims and for research. The Masterfile includes codes for a wide range of specialties, each of which is intended to be self-designated by the physician. However, the codes are not equivalent to specialty training or certification. The physician listing a specialty on the Masterfile does not necessarily mean that the physician has been trained or has special competence to practice the SDPS.

The codes are intended to be used for self-designation and are not a substitute for specialty recognition. The lack of a code for a particular specialty does not imply a lack of interest or expertise in that field.

In summary, the Masterfile codes are intended to be a means of self-designation and are not equivalent to specialty recognition or certification. The codes are not intended to be used as a substitute for specialty training or certification.