
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MOC (CP-MOC)

(February 2012)

1. Why is ABPN moving to a Continuous MOC Program?

The Continuous Maintenance of Certification Program (CP-MOC) will facilitate the required annual recording and reporting of diplomate MOC participation.

2. What are the advantages of participating in the Continuous MOC Program?

You only pay one small annual fee instead of a large amount every ten years. The ABPN Physician Folios gives you a personalized list of all your MOC activities that you can provide to your employer/hospital/licensing board, if required. You will be informed on a regular basis of what you must do to meet the MOC requirements so you don't fall behind with requirements.

3. Does everyone have to join?

Beginning in 2012, all diplomates who pass their initial certification or MOC examination must enter into the Continuous Pathway to Lifelong Learning.

Diplomates who pass their initial certification or MOC examination prior to 2012 will not be required to participate in this program unless they elect to do so.

4. What about lifetime certificate holders?

Lifetime certificate holders will not be required to participate in this program unless they elect to do so. However, all time-limited certificate holders will be required to participate in this program beginning with the 2012 initial certification and MOC examinations.

5. How will I be reported to the public if I am a lifetime certificate holder & I choose not enter the CP-MOC Program?

Physicians who hold certificates issued prior to October 1, 1994 (lifetime certificate holders) are not required to participate in maintenance of certification. Those physicians who choose to not enter the CP-MOC program will be listed as Certified, but not meeting MOC requirements and not required to do so.

6. How does a lifetime certificate holder enter the CP-MOC Program?

The ABPN understands that some physicians holding lifetime certificates may wish to complete maintenance of certification requirements and enter the CP-MOC program. By passing an MOC examination, lifetime certificate holders will automatically be enrolled into the CP-MOC program and the physician will be listed as voluntarily meeting MOC requirements. *Failure to pass the MOC examination will have no impact on the lifetime certificate.*

7. What if I have multiple certificates?

The annual fee covers one cognitive MOC examination in a ten-year period. There is only one annual fee collected per diplomate. An annual fee is not collected for every certificate. You will be responsible for the full payment for any cognitive MOC examination taken in addition to the first one.

8. What if I take a modular MOC examination (a combination of up to 3 specialty/subspecialties in one examination administration)?

The modular MOC examination fee is higher than the standard MOC examination fee; therefore, you will be required to pay the difference in fees at the time of registration for the examination.

9. I am participating in an ACGME-accredited/ABPN subspecialty program. Can I get MOC credit for the fellowship?

Yes. Physicians becoming certified in their primary specialty may count completion of fellowship training and certification in a subspecialty as one Continuous Pathway to Life-Long Learning (CP-MOC) unit. Completion of this requirement will take the place of one stage of MOC activities (three year cycle) including self-assessment, CME, and PIP requirements.



10. Why is there an annual MOC program fee?

The annual MOC program fee covers participation in the ABPN Physician Folios and includes one MOC cognitive examination in a ten-year period. The fee also includes regular email reminders and updates from ABPN so that a diplomate does not fall behind with requirements.

11. What happens if I do not pay the annual fee?

A diplomate will be reported as 'Not Meeting MOC Requirements' if they do not pay the annual fee.

12. What happens if I do not sign on to the ABPN Physician Folios?

A diplomate is required to pay their annual fees and enter their MOC activity through ABPN Physician Folios, therefore a diplomate will be reported as 'Not Meeting MOC Requirements' if they do not sign on to the ABPN Physician Folios.

13. What happens if I do not complete all of the MOC requirements?

A diplomate will be reported as 'Not Meeting MOC Requirements' if they have not met all of the MOC requirements.

14. What happens if I fail the cognitive MOC examination?

A diplomate will be reported as 'Not Meeting MOC Requirements' if they fail or miss the cognitive MOC examination. Diplomates will be allowed to retake the examination within one year of the failed/missed examination. If the diplomate fails or misses the cognitive MOC examination on the second attempt, he/she will be reported as 'Not Certified'.

15. How can I change my status from 'Not Meeting MOC Requirements' to 'Meeting MOC Requirements'?

A diplomate will be reported as 'Not Meeting MOC Requirements' if they have not met all MOC requirements for one stage (three years). A diplomate may change their status to 'Meeting MOC Requirements' by completing insufficient stage activities, current stage activities, and payment of all required fees.

16. What if I miss more than 6 years (2 stages) of MOC activities?

A diplomate will be reported as 'Not Certified' if they miss more than 6 years (2 stages) of MOC activities. Diplomates may change their status back to 'Certified and Meeting MOC Requirements' upon successful completion of all MOC activities included in one stage:

- An unrestricted license(s) and no restrictions on any license
- 24 CME hours of self-assessment (SA) activities
- 90 Category-1 CME hours total (including CMEs from SA activities)
- 1 Performance in Practice (PIP) Unit (one clinical module and one feedback module)
- Pass MOC cognitive examination (pay full fee)

17. I have an active 10-year certificate and wish to join the CP-MOC Program. How do I do that?

Diplomates with active 10 year certificates may log onto their Physician Folio account and enter the Continuous Pathway to Life Long Learning program. By following a simple series of step-by-step instructions physicians may enroll in the CP-MOC program. MOC requirements will be prorated according to the expiration date of the certificate.

18. I have an expired 10-year certificate and wish to join the CP-MOC Program. How do I do that?

Physicians with expired 10 year certificates may enter the CP-MOC program by meeting the requirements for admission to the current year's examination and passing the MOC examination.