



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Continuing Certification/ MOC Program

NOTE: All policies, components, and requirements of the ABPN Continuing Certification (CC/MOC) Program are subject to change. Each ABPN Diplomate is responsible for remaining informed about the current CC/MOC program requirements. Diplomates are encouraged to consult the ABPN website at www.abpn.com for regular updates.

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The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) Continuing Certification/MOC Program

Introduction

The Continuing Certification/Maintenance of Certification Program (CC/MOC) of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology reflects the Board's commitment to lifelong learning throughout one's profession. The purpose of Continuing Certification/MOC is to ensure that diplomates adhere to the highest standards in medicine and pursue excellence in all areas of care and practice improvement.

The CC/MOC program requires diplomates to participate in sanctioned self-assessment performance measures, identify possible weaknesses in their knowledge, pursue learning activities tailored to individual areas that need to be strengthened, and develop quality improvement programs based on their clinical practice. The goal for diplomates is to reflect on their personal knowledge and performance, commit to a process of improvement and reevaluation over specified time frames, and continually improve care for their patients.

The ABPN has developed a program for our diplomates that strikes a balance between what will likely be required by organizations that license, credential, and pay physicians, and what is reasonable and straightforward enough to be accomplished by busy physicians. **Many of our diplomates are already participating in various components of Continuing Certification through institutional quality improvement programs. The CC/MOC program endeavors to recognize those efforts.** ABPN has worked to develop a clear CC/MOC program that will enable diplomates to demonstrate their competence throughout a certificate cycle.

The ABPN is committed to supporting its diplomates throughout their careers by advancing the clinical practices of psychiatry and neurology and by promoting the highest evidence-based guidelines and standards.

History of Recertification and Continuing Certification

Before October 1, 1994, physicians certified in psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, neurology, or neurology with special qualification in child neurology were granted lifetime certificates.

Between October 1, 1994, and December 31, 2011, all individuals achieving specialty Board certification by the ABPN were issued time-limited certificates that expired December 31, ten years after they were issued. Certificates issued in all subspecialties except child and adolescent psychiatry have always been time limited. Time-limited certificates for child and adolescent psychiatry began in 1995. Beginning January 1, 2012, all certifications are dependent upon continuous maintenance of certification based on a three-year cycle of requirements with certificates being valid as long as they are maintained. The examination cycle remains at ten years. As of 2022, diplomates will be automatically enrolled to in the Article Based Continuing Certification pathway (ABCC) as an alternative Part III option to the every-ten-year traditional recertification exam.

Due to a mandate of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the recertification program transitioned to MOC in 2007. Before 2007, diplomates recertified by taking the recertification examination. Beginning in 2007, admission to the recertification examination (now called CC/MOC) required prerequisites. The change from recertification to CC/MOC strengthened the program and guaranteed that physicians were current in ways not immediately available for testing. The ABPN transitioned to Continuing Certification in 2012. All ABPN certificates issued in 2012 and after do not have an end date since ongoing certification is contingent upon a diplomate meeting all ABPN requirements of the Continuing Certification Program.

Effective July 2019, diplomates currently certified in a multidisciplinary subspecialty administered by a member board **other than** the ABPN (hospice and palliative medicine, pain medicine or sleep medicine) now have the **option** of following the lead of that member board regarding their primary continuing certification/MOC requirement. See page 2 for more information.

General Conditions of Continuing Certification/MOC

Diplomates' certification and continuing certification/MOC statuses are public information. This information is reported by the ABPN to the public in the ABPN verifyCERT® system and annually to the ABMS.

Time-limited specialty certificates (psychiatry, neurology, and neurology with special qualification in child neurology) and all subspecialty certificates must be renewed periodically in order to remain valid. Certificates that are not renewed are no longer valid and the physician is no longer certified in that specialty and/or subspecialty.

Effective July 2019, ABPN diplomates currently certified in a multidisciplinary subspecialty administered by a member board **other than** the ABPN (hospice and palliative medicine, pain medicine or sleep medicine) now have the **option** of following the lead of that member board regarding their primary continuing certification/MOC requirement. Under this policy, requirements for diplomates who hold ABPN-administered subspecialties will not change. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is the only ABPN-administered subspecialty which does not require maintenance of primary certification. Please refer to the requirements tables below.

Primary Certification Requirements for Subspecialties

Subspecialty	Administrative Board	Must Maintain Primary Certification?
Brain Injury	ABPMR	Yes
Hospice and Palliative Medicine	ABIM	No
Pain Medicine	ABA	No
Sleep Medicine	ABIM	No
ABPN Subspecialty	Administrative Board	Must Maintain Primary Certification?
Addiction Psychiatry	ABPN	Yes
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	ABPN	No
Clinical Neurophysiology	ABPN	Yes
Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry	ABPN	Yes
Epilepsy	ABPN	Yes
Forensic Psychiatry	ABPN	Yes
Geriatric Psychiatry	ABPN	Yes
Neurocritical Care	ABPN	Yes
Neurodevelopmental Disabilities	ABPN	Yes
Neuromuscular Medicine	ABPN	Yes
Vascular Neurology	ABPN	Yes

If a certificate lapses, there is no time limit on regaining certification status through CC/MOC.

Continuing Certification/MOC program participation includes meeting **all CC/MOC** requirements, [Professional Standing, Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits, Self-Assessment CME (SA-CME) credits, Patient Safety Activity (if required) and an Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) Activity] as well as passing the CC/MOC examination every 10 years or participating in the MOC Part III Pilot Project, or participating in the Article Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway. **CC/MOC requirements must be completed prior to applying for the examination.**

Any CME, SA, and/or PIP activities completed will apply to all specialties and/or subspecialties in which a physician is certified. Combined CC/MOC examination formats are available for physicians who wish to maintain certification in more than one area at the same time.

The expertise component of the CC/MOC program is the CC/MOC examination or participation in the article assessment pathway. A passing score on the CC/MOC examination automatically enrolls the diplomate into the Continuing Certification (CC/MOC) Program. Once enrolled in Continuing Certification, diplomates will need to satisfy all CC/MOC activity requirements and pay the annual fee(s).

Diplomate Audits

The ABPN will randomly audit approximately five percent of diplomates in the CC/MOC Programs each year. Diplomates who are audited will receive an email detailing the documentation required as evidence of completion of required CC/MOC activities (CME, Self-Assessment CME, Patient Safety and PIP activities).

Diplomates with expired or invalidated ABPN certificates will be audited upon re-entry into the ABPN certification process.

Diplomates will be notified of the audit following completion of a three-year CC/MOC block.

Diplomates who fail the CC/MOC program audit will have their certification status changed to “Certified – Not Meeting CC Requirements”. Diplomates will have the remaining time in their next block to provide their ABPN credentials auditor with the documentation to satisfy the requirements of the audit. If the requirements of the audit are met within this timeframe, the audit will be changed to a PASS status and the certification status will be updated to “Certified-Meeting CC Requirements”. If the requirements of the audit have not been met by the end of the next block (6 years), a diplomate will be reported as “Not Certified”.

See the [ABPN Audit Guidelines for Diplomates](#) document on our website for more information.

The Two Continuing Certification/MOC Programs

The ABPN currently has two active continuing certification/MOC programs and specific activity requirements exist for each:

- The 10-Year MOC Program is for diplomates with time-limited certificates issued prior to 2012. These diplomates will be recertifying between 2020-2021. MOC activities must be completed before applying for the MOC examination or Part III Pilot.
- The CC/MOC Program or Continuing Certification/MOC is for diplomates who pass an exam (initial certification or CC/MOC) in 2012 or later. As of 2012, diplomates are automatically enrolled in the CC/MOC Program upon passing an examination.

CC/MOC Requirements can be found on pages 5 through 10. A list of the requirements unique to each program can be found in the CC/MOC Roadmap on page 13, with additional details about the 10-Year MOC program on page 14 and the CC/MOC program on page 15.

Continuing Certification/MOC for Lifetime Certificate Holders

Physicians certified in psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, neurology, or neurology with special qualification in child neurology before October 1, 1994, were granted lifetime certificates.

Participation in the CC/MOC program is not required for diplomates with lifetime certificates; however, credentialing requirements for hospitals, practice groups, and third-party payers may require evidence of continuous certification efforts. In addition, some states are considering the implementation of Maintenance of Licensure Programs, similar to the CC/MOC program.

There are two pathways for Lifetime Certificate holders to voluntarily participate in the CC/MOC program:

1. Diplomates can apply for and take a CC/MOC examination or Article Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway and be automatically enrolled in CC/MOC upon passing the CC/MOC Examination or first set of article assessments. Lifetime certificate holders do not need to complete CC/MOC requirements prior to sitting for an CC/MOC examination

OR

2. Diplomates can elect to enroll in CC/MOC, complete one block of MOC activity requirements [90 Category 1 CME, of which 24 need to come from Self-Assessment CME, one Patient Safety Activity and one Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) Activity], and then pass the CC/MOC exam, or article assessments, within three years of enrollment. These diplomates will be listed as “Meeting MOC Requirements” from the date they enroll in CC/MOC. To elect into CC/MOC, diplomates need to follow the prompts to “Switch to the CC/MOC program” in his/her ABPN Physician Folios account’s Maintenance of Certification section, under the MOC Guide tab. The CC/MOC enrollment fee of \$175 will be credited towards the first annual fee payment. Each annual fee applies a 10% credit to a single CC/MOC exam.

Lifetime certificate holders who voluntarily participate in the CC/MOC program and do not pass the CC/MOC examination or article pathway will retain their lifetime certificate. Lifetime certificate holders who do not participate in CC/MOC will be reported to the ABMS and on the ABPN website as, ‘Certified-Not meeting CC/MOC requirements and not required to do so’.

Continuing Certification/MOC Requirements

As mandated by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the Board has developed a CC/MOC program that include four components:

1. Professionalism and Professional Standing (Part I)
2. Lifelong Learning (CME), Self-Assessment (SA) and Patient Safety (Part II)
3. Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills (Part III)
4. Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) (Part IV)

Continuing Certification/MOC program participation includes meeting all four components of the CC/MOC Program. Diplomates are only required to complete one set of CC/MOC activity requirements (CME, SA-CME, and PIP activities) for all ABPN specialties/subspecialties in which a physician is certified.

1. Professionalism and Professional Standing

Professionalism forms the basis of medicine's contract with society. The ABPN is concerned with those aspects of professionalism that are demonstrated through a physician's clinical competence, commitment to lifelong learning and professional improvement, interpersonal skills, and ethical understanding and behavior. In its credentialing, certification, and CC/MOC programs, the ABPN seeks to assess and document that its candidates and diplomates possess and maintain these aspects of professionalism.

To show evidence of professional standing, all diplomates must continuously hold an active, full, and unrestricted allopathic and/or osteopathic license to practice medicine in at least one state, commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States or province of Canada. All licenses held by a physician must be unrestricted. An active, full, unrestricted license must be maintained even if the physician is out of the country for extended periods of time.

Full details of licensure requirements can be found in the [General Information and Board Policies Manual](#) on the ABPN website. Licenses must be kept up to date in an [ABPN Physician Folios account](#).

2. Lifelong Learning (CME) and Self-Assessment (SA-CME)

A. Continuing Medical Education (CME)

- Diplomates in the 10-Year MOC program must complete 300 Category 1 CME credits (includes SA-CME) prior to applying for recertification.
- Diplomates in the CC/MOC program must complete an average of 30 specialty and/or subspecialty CME credits per year.
- CME can be ANY Category 1 credits relevant to one's field of practice.
- Diplomates choose their own CME activities. CME activities do not need to be ABPN approved.
- Self-Assessment (SA-CME) credits contribute to the overall number of CME credits.
- CME activities completed for one specialty/subspecialty will satisfy the requirement for another specialty/subspecialty.

Acceptable CME credits are Category 1 CME accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), Category 1A CME accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or Category 1 CME accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

B. Self-Assessment CME (SA-CME)

Diplomates of the ABPN are required to participate in ABPN-approved Self-Assessment CME activities relevant to either their specialty and/or subspecialty. Self-Assessment CME activities are a specific type of CME activity that assist physicians in recognizing their current knowledge base in order to identify specific topics for gaining further knowledge.

- Diplomates in the 10-Year MOC program must complete at least 24 Self-Assessment CME credits prior to applying for recertification.
- Diplomates in the CC/MOC program must complete an average of 8 specialty and/or subspecialty SA-CME credits per year. (24 Self-Assessment CME credits for each 3-year block).
- Self-Assessment activities must be selected from the ABPN Approved Products List since not all Category 1 CME activities meet specific Self-Assessment activity requirements.
- Choose from the following to complete Self-Assessment activities:
 - Select activities from the ABPN Approved Products List. Some no-cost or reduced cost ABPN-approved activities on the list are available to members through their professional society.
 - Earn credit for up to two different types of Non-CME Self-Assessment Activity Options.

- Diplomates in the CC/MOC program must complete the approved non-CME Self-Assessment activity during the block for which they are earning non-CME Self-Assessment credit.
- Diplomates in the 10-year MOC program, who are due to recertify in 2020-2021, must complete the non-CME Self-Assessment Activities within the three years prior to applying for the MOC examination.
- Complete Self-Assessment (Part II) activities under the auspices of an International Certification Organization (e.g., RCPS-C) that meets the ABPN CC/MOC requirements; submit for preapproval.

Non-CME Self-Assessment

- The ABPN will waive eight SA-CME credits through completion of a non-CME SA activity.
- A maximum of 16 SA-CME credits may be waived per MOC block for two different non-CME SA activities OR for successful completion of the MOC Part III Pilot Project or Article Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway.
- Diplomates in CC/MOC must complete the approved non-CME SA activity during the 3-year block for which they are earning non-CME Self-Assessment credit.
- Diplomates in the 10-Year MOC Program, who are due to recertify in 2020-2021, must complete the non-CME SA activities within the 3 years *prior* to applying for the MOC examination.

ABPN is not a CME provider. While non-CME Self-Assessment waiver options on the lists below contribute to the Self-Assessment requirement of the ABPN MOC Program, they are NOT recognized by state medical licensing boards as Category 1 CME credits.

Applicable Non-CME Self-Assessment Activities

Eight Self-Assessment CME credits (or 16 for the Pilot Project or Article Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway only) will be waived for EACH of the following activity options:

These options require no preapproval by the ABPN:

- Passing an ABPN certification or CC/MOC exam within the current CC/MOC block;
- Peer-reviewed journal article that has the status of 'Indexed for MEDLINE' on the MEDLINE database. See psychiatry and neurology article examples on the website;
- Participate in an approved registry such as the Axon Registry from the American Academy of Neurology or the PsychPRO Registry from the American Psychiatric Association;
- Successful completion of the ABPN MOC Part III Pilot Project. Diplomates who successfully complete the Pilot Project can waive a maximum of 16 Self-Assessment (SA-CME) credits for the current block they are in:
 - Diplomates in the 10-Year Program (due for recertification in 2020-2021) can count the credits for 16 out of the 24 SA-CME credits needed for recertification OR towards the first 3-year block of requirements. If the participant successfully completes all 30 article exams prior to their September 1st application deadline, they can then count the 16 SA credits towards the 24 SA credit requirement needed for recertification.
 - Diplomates already in the CC/MOC Program can count successful completion of all 30 article exams in the Pilot Project for 16 out of the 24 SA credits needed for the current block they are in, at the time of their Pilot Project exam completion deadline
 - Successful completion of the Article Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway will count for a waiver of 16 SA per 3-year block

These options must be submitted to the ABPN at questions@abpn.com for preapproval:

- Approved scientific grant application (funding not required), with documented peer review/feedback, formal approval letter and/or priority score statement (i.e., Summary Statement with priority score from NIH, etc.), and significant/major contribution to the grant writing. Fellowship Awards do not qualify for scientific grant credit;
- Four hours of supervision from a supervisor or peer with written feedback about the diplomate's clinical performance, medical knowledge, and patient care;
 - Supervision activity similar to faculty to resident peer supervision
 - Involves diplomates presenting clinical cases to peer(s) and receiving detailed feedback on the care provided to specific patients
 - Must be documented and signed by the supervisor
- Formal institutional peer review committee with written feedback about the diplomate's clinical performance, medical knowledge, and patient care;
 - Reviews the clinical care a diplomate provides patients and gives written feedback
 - Keyed to review a specific medical condition or patient type
 - Typically, a chart review/QI process of diplomate clinical performance by a formal review committee at an institution.

Note: Item writing and teaching/supervision do not count as approved non-CME SA activities.

Diplomates are required to use only ABPN-approved Self-Assessment Activities.

The ABPN will approve additional activities over time and reserves the right to approve or reject any course or guideline submitted for approval.

C. Patient Safety Activity

The ABPN patient safety activity requirement applies to diplomates whose first block of CC/MOC activities began in 2017 or later. Those diplomates are required to do or have done a patient safety activity within three years prior or three years after entering the CC/MOC Program. Diplomates of the ABPN are required to participate in an ABPN-approved patient safety activity to ensure they have adequate knowledge of safety science and principles.

For example:

- A diplomate who is initially certifying or recertifying in 2020 can complete the patient safety activity within the three years prior to applying for recertification (2017-2019) OR during their first CC/MOC block (2021-2023).

Choose from ONE of the following options to complete the patient safety activity:

- A patient safety activity required by an accredited institution (e.g., hospitals, clinics, training programs) or
- A patient safety activity listed on the ABPN Approved Products List. Some no-cost or reduced cost ABPN-approved activities on the list are available to members through professional organizations or
- A patient safety activity required for state medical licensure

General Information

- The patient safety activity is a one-time requirement.
- Diplomates will need to attest to a patient safety activity in their ABPN Physician Folios account on the Requirement Status page.
- Institutions are NOT required to get preapproval from ABPN for patient safety activities.
- The candidate/diplomate must provide documentation of successful completion of the patient safety activity if audited.
- See your individual [ABPN Physician Folios account](#) for more information.

3. Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills

To satisfy the Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills component, diplomates must recertify for each certification they hold, in addition to satisfying the CC/MOC activity requirements. Diplomates must either pass the computer-based CC/MOC (recertification) examination once every ten years OR, successfully complete the MOC Part III Pilot Project, or successfully complete the Article Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway beginning in 2022

- The ten-year CC/MOC examination is a practice relevant, clinically oriented, multiple-choice, computer-administered examination. Review the [ABPN Maintenance of Certification Exam Process Flyer](#) for an overview of the CC/MOC examination process.
- Primary specialty CC/MOC examinations (psychiatry, neurology, and child neurology) are offered twice a year. Subspecialty CC/MOC examinations are offered once a year except for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, which is offered twice a year. American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) diplomates certified in an ABPN subspecialty, apart from Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, are required to maintain their primary specialty certification. Effective July 2019, diplomates currently certified in a multidisciplinary subspecialty administered by a member board **other than** the ABPN (hospice and palliative medicine, pain medicine or sleep medicine) now have the **option** of following the lead of that member board regarding their primary Continuing Certification/MOC requirement.
- See the [Exam Schedule](#) on our website for examination dates, application deadlines and dates when applications become available. Applications for CC/MOC exams are only available on-line through ABPN Physician Folios. Diplomates are responsible for applying for CC/MOC exams at the appropriate time.
- Beginning in 2022, all diplomates with active certifications will be automatically enrolled in the Article Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway for continuing certification. The pathway is available for all ABPN specialties and subspecialties in lieu of sitting for the CC/MOC examination. The ABCC is a professional journal article-based assessment activity designed as an optional alternative to the proctored 10-year CC/MOC examination. Diplomates will read at least 30

- selected articles and answer questions online. Diplomates who get 4 out of 5 questions correct on at least 30 out of 40 articles on the first attempt will satisfy the Part III requirement and will not be required to take the computer-based CC/MOC examination. See additional ABCC information on our website at <https://www.abpn.com/maintain-certification/>.

[Combined CC/MOC examinations](#) are available for physicians who wish to recertify in more than one specialty and/or ABPN subspecialty at the same time. Combined CC/MOC examinations allow the diplomate to select either two or three specialty or subspecialty areas in which they are certified and take one CC/MOC combined examination instead of two or three separate CC/MOC examinations. Combined examinations consist of 100 questions from each specialty or subspecialty area.

Successful completion of the CC/MOC Combined Exam is required of candidates seeking Continuing Certification in **all** of the specialties and/or subspecialties selected. To successfully complete this exam, a candidate must achieve an overall passing score on the entire examination. CC/MOC modules are not passed or failed individually.

Only CC/MOC examinations administered by ABPN are available in the combined examination format. The following CC/MOC recertification examinations administered by other Boards are NOT available in the combined format: Brain Injury Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Pain Medicine and Sleep Medicine.

On the ABPN website, view the [General Information and Board Policies Manual](#) or the 'Information for Applicants' (IFA) publication for each examination for additional information.

CC/MOC examinations are administered at over 200 Pearson VUE Professional Centers throughout the United States and Canada, as well as at selected Pearson VUE international test centers. Diplomates who select the international testing option when applying for an examination will be contacted by the ABPN concerning locations and cost.

Learn what to expect when you arrive at the Pearson VUE test center with a [short video](#) on the Pearson website.

View the [Computer Based Testing at Pearson VUE FAQs](#) for more information. ABPN examination [sample screens](#) can be found on the ABPN website.

4. Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP)

Diplomates choose ONE Clinical Module OR Feedback Module to complete the PIP activity.

This quality improvement exercise is designed for clinically active physicians to identify and implement plans for improvement based on the review of one's own patient charts (Clinical Module) OR feedback from peers or patients via a questionnaire/survey (Feedback Module).

Each Module consists of three steps to be completed within a three-year CC/MOC block:

Step A: Initial Assessment

Step B: Identify and Implement Improvement

Step C: Reassessment

General Information

- Diplomates who are clinically active and/or engaged in consultative care will need to complete a PIP activity. See the Clinical Activity Status page for more information.
- Please allow ample time to complete the PIP activity (Steps A, B and C).
- Use the same feedback option for the initial assessment and reassessment steps.
- For the 10-year MOC program, one PIP activity is required and for the CC/MOC Program, one PIP activity is required every 3 years.
- ABPN does not collect patient or peer data. If audited, ABPN will require that diplomates explain how they carried out the Improvement in Medical Practice Activity and submit information about their process and improvement plan. The [ABPN Audit Guidelines for Diplomates](#) document lists the documentation needed in the event of an audit.
- Preapproval is not needed if the questionnaire/survey addresses the six general competencies: patient care, medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, practice-based learning, professionalism, and systems-based practice.

A. Clinical Chart Review Module

Diplomates demonstrate their involvement in quality improvement by choosing one of the following options:

- Select a Clinical Module from the ABPN Approved Products List
- Participate in your institution's QI effort that is approved by the ABMS Portfolio Program
- Participate in an approved registry such as the Axon Registry from the American Academy of Neurology or the PsychPRO Registry from the American Psychiatric Association. Participation in the registry will also count for a waiver of 8 non-CME SA credits.
- Participate in a Joint Commission Certified Primary or Comprehensive Stroke Center. If audited, diplomates need to provide a signed and dated letter verifying their current participation in the stroke center.
- Participate in a Joint Commission accredited, specialty-specific Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE). Individual preapproval is no longer required. See the website for examples.
- Complete a quality improvement effort under the auspices of an International Certification Organization (e.g., RCPS-C) that meets the ABPN CC/MOC requirements; submit for preapproval or
- Seek individual preapproval (at no charge) for your own developed Clinical Module, or your institution's quality improvement efforts. Submit for preapproval using the [Individual Part IV Improvement in Medical Practice \(PIP\) Approval Request Form](#).

How to complete the Clinical Module

Step A: Initial assessment of five patient charts

- Collect data from at least five of your own patient charts in a specific category (diagnosis, type of treatment, or treatment setting) obtained from your practice over the previous three-year period.
- Compare the data from the five patient cases with published best practices, practice guidelines, or peer-based standards of care (e.g., hospital QI programs, standard practice guidelines published by specialty societies), using a minimum of four quality measures.

Step B: Identify and Implement Improvement

- Based on results from chart reviews, develop and carry out a plan to improve effectiveness and/or efficiency of your medical practice.
- If no areas for improvement are determined based on initial assessment, then maintenance of performance in medical practice should be reassessed in Step C.

Step C: Reassessment of five patient charts

- Within 24 months of initial assessment, collect data from another five of your own patient charts (may use same or different patients).
- Use the same category and practice guidelines for the initial assessment and reassessment steps.

B. Patient or Peer Feedback Module

For the Feedback Module, clinically active diplomates collect feedback regarding their own clinical performance by completing one of the following options. The Feedback Module consists of three steps to complete within a 24-month period.

How to Complete a Feedback Module

Step A: Initial assessment of patient or peer feedback

Collect initial feedback from ONE of the following options:

- Patient* feedback forms from five patients
- Peer** feedback forms from five peers
- Resident evaluation feedback forms from five residents
- Supervisor evaluation feedback form from one supervisor or
- 360 Degree evaluation feedback forms from five respondents

Diplomates may choose a feedback module from the Approved Products List, or use an ABPN feedback form, or submit their institution's patient survey or peer evaluation for individual preapproval. The feedback forms must address the six general competencies: patient care, medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, practice-based learning and improvement, professionalism, and systems-based practice.

Step B: Identify and implement improvement

- Based on results from feedback, identify opportunities for improvement to the effectiveness and/or efficiency in practice as related to the general competencies and take steps to implement improvements as needed.
- If no areas for improvement are determined based on initial assessment, then maintenance of performance in medical practice should be reassessed in Step C.

Step C: Reassessment of patient or peer feedback

- Within 24 months of initial assessment, collect data from another set of the same or different patients or peers.
- Use the same feedback option for the initial assessment and reassessment steps.

ABPN feedback forms are available on the ABPN Approved Products List at no cost.

* Patients may include those for which the diplomate supervises the care of another provider (e.g., resident).

** Peers may include other professional healthcare staff such as counselors, nurses, physicians, psychologists, and social workers.

Clinical Activity Status

The ABMS has issued definitions of ‘Clinically Active’ and ‘Clinically Inactive’ and requires that all diplomates self-report their status once every 24 months in each area of certification. This information will be available to the public.

1. **Clinically Active:** Any amount of direct and/or consultative patient care has been provided in the preceding 24 months. This includes the supervision of residents.
 - A. Engaged in direct and/or consultative care *sufficient* to complete an Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) activity.
 - B. Engaged in direct and/or consultative care *not sufficient* to complete a PIP activity.
2. **Clinically Inactive:** No direct and or/consultative patient care has been provided in the past 24 months.
3. **Status Unknown:** No information available on the clinical activity of this diplomate.
 - Diplomates who are in Category 1A above are required to complete all components of the CC/MOC program including a PIP activity.
 - Diplomates who are in categories 1B or 2 above are required to complete all components of the CC/MOC program except a PIP activity.
 - A change in diplomate status from 1B or 2 to 1A requires the completion of at least one PIP activity.

Diplomates must update their Clinical Activity Status in the Diplomate Information and Status section in ABPN Physician Folios on www.abpn.com.

Alternative Continuing Certification/MOC Activity Options

1. CC/MOC Activity Waiver for Fellowships

A three-year block of CC/MOC requirements (CME, SA-CME, and PIP) will be waived for diplomates who graduated from an ACGME-accredited subspecialty fellowship training program, an ABPN-approved Triple Board, or an ABPN-approved Post Pediatrics Portal program in 2011 or later AND who pass the corresponding ABPN or an ABMS Member Board subspecialty certification exam. Diplomates will receive a three-year block CC/MOC activity waiver for the current block they are in at the time of passing the subspecialty exam.

Upon passing the subspecialty exam, diplomates will see the waiver reflected in their Physician Folios account. Diplomates who meet the criteria via another ABMS Member Board subspecialty will need to email the Board an individual request prior to the waiver being applied.

Diplomates are required to pay the annual fee and attest to completion of an approved patient safety activity (if applicable).

If a diplomate believes they are eligible for the credit, but did not receive notice of the credit waiver, they should contact the Board via questions@abpn.com.

2. ABMS Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program

The ABPN recognizes that many physicians already participate in quality improvement (QI) efforts in their local institutions. The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Multi-Specialty Portfolio Approval Program (Portfolio Program) is an alternative pathway for healthcare organizations that support physician involvement in QI and MOC to have their QI efforts be approved for CC/MOC Part IV credit.

A list of Portfolio Program sponsors can be found on the ABMS Portfolio Program website. Physicians should contact the portfolio program manager at their institution for a list of approved projects.

ABPN Diplomates who successfully complete an approved QI program receive credit for one PIP Clinical Module. If the approved QI effort includes a patient or peer survey, ABPN Diplomates may also receive credit for one PIP Feedback Module. Diplomates are only required to complete ONE Clinical Module OR Feedback Module activity to complete the PIP activity.

3. ABMS Member Board Reciprocal CC/MOC Credit

ABPN diplomates who are currently completing Self-Assessment (Part II) and/or Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP/Part IV) requirements of another ABMS Member Board will also be able to claim that Self-Assessment (Part II) and/or Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) credit for the ABPN CC/MOC Program.

In order to maintain ABPN certification, diplomates will need to:

- Satisfy all four components of CC/MOC:
 - Maintain full, unrestricted medical licensure;
 - Complete CME, Self-Assessment, and Patient Safety activities;
 - Complete an Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) activity;
 - Pass the ABPN CC/MOC exam every 10 years or successfully complete the MOC Part III Pilot Project or participate in the Article-Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway.
- Complete the reciprocal CC/MOC credit during the current ABPN CC/MOC block.
- Provide documentation from the other board if audited.
- If enrolled in the CC/MOC program, attest to the reciprocal credit in the 'Activity Attestation' section of ABPN Physician Folios and pay the annual fees(s).

CC/MOC Roadmap

When Were You Last Certified?	CC/MOC Program	Program Breakdown																		
A January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2011	10 YEAR MOC PROGRAM	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PART</th> <th>REQUIREMENT</th> <th>DEADLINE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CME</td> <td>300 Credits</td> <td>10 Years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Self-Assessment</td> <td>24 Credits</td> <td>10 Years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PIP</td> <td>1 Component: Clinical OR Feedback</td> <td>10 Years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CC Exam</td> <td>1 Exam or Pilot Project Requirements</td> <td>10 Years</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PART	REQUIREMENT	DEADLINE	CME	300 Credits	10 Years	Self-Assessment	24 Credits	10 Years	PIP	1 Component: Clinical OR Feedback	10 Years	CC Exam	1 Exam or Pilot Project Requirements	10 Years			
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NOTE: Once you recertify (2021-2022) you will move to the 2012+ Continuing Certification MOC Requirements (Row B)																				
B January 1, 2012+	CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (CC/MOC)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PART</th> <th>REQUIREMENT</th> <th>DEADLINE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Patient Safety</td> <td>1 Activity</td> <td>1 Time</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CME</td> <td>90 Credits</td> <td>3 Years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Self-Assessment</td> <td>24 Credits</td> <td>3 Years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PIP</td> <td>1 Component: Clinical OR Feedback</td> <td>3 Years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CC Exam</td> <td>1 Exam or ABCC Pathway</td> <td>10 Years</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PART	REQUIREMENT	DEADLINE	Patient Safety	1 Activity	1 Time	CME	90 Credits	3 Years	Self-Assessment	24 Credits	3 Years	PIP	1 Component: Clinical OR Feedback	3 Years	CC Exam	1 Exam or ABCC Pathway	10 Years
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NOTE: Once the 3 year cycle is complete, begin the Continuous MOC Program again.																				

- Please check the exam schedule and application deadlines on our website for the latest information.
- All diplomates entering the ABPN CC Program whose first block began in 2017 or later are required to do or have done a patient safety activity within three years prior or three years after entering the C-MOC Program.
- Diplomates must pay the annual fee (\$175 for one certificate) in their Physician Folios account.
- Beginning in 2022, all diplomates with active certifications will be automatically enrolled in the Article Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway for continuing certification. The pathway is available for all ABPN specialties and subspecialties in lieu of sitting for the CC/MOC examination. See our website for details.

Specific Requirements: 10-Year MOC Program

Program for Diplomates certified before 2012

Diplomates who passed a certification or MOC exam prior to 2012 and are due for recertification in 2020-2021 are in the 10-Year MOC Program.

Diplomates in the 10-Year MOC Program who are not recertified before their certificates expire are no longer board certified in that area of certification.

All diplomates in the 10-Year MOC Program will be automatically enrolled in the Continuing Certification/MOC (CC/MOC) Program upon passing the MOC exam. The 10-Year MOC Program will sunset at the end of 2022.

General Requirements

- Maintain an active, full, unrestricted medical license in the United States or Canada.
- Complete the following MOC activities prior to applying for a MOC exam:
 - 300 Category 1 CME credits (includes SA-CME)
 - 24 Self-Assessment (SA-CME) credits
 - One Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) activity
- Pass a CC/MOC exam for each certification every 10 years or participate in the MOC Part III Pilot Project, or Article-Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway.

10-Year MOC diplomates will pay for board certification and attest to completing MOC activities at the time they pay for the MOC exam. Diplomates who participate in the MOC Part III Pilot Project need to complete the MOC activities and pay by September 1 of the year their certificate expires. The activities can be in either one's general specialty and/or subspecialty(ies). CME credits can be obtained from any Category 1 CME credits relevant to one's field of practice (they do not need to be ABPN-approved). Both the Self-Assessment CME (SA-CME) and PIP activities must be ABPN-approved.

Physicians certified or recertified in 2012 or later should refer to the CC/MOC section on page 15.

Diplomates Not Meeting 10-Year MOC Requirements

Diplomates' certification and maintenance of certification statuses are public information and are reported by the ABPN to the public in the ABPN verifyCERT® system and to the ABMS annually.

- Diplomates who do not meet the specific admission requirements for the CC/MOC examination or article pathway in the year in which they wish to recertify will not be admitted to the examination.
- Diplomates must pass a CC/MOC exam every ten years and are allowed two consecutive attempts per application.
- If a diplomate does not pass the MOC exam on the first attempt in the tenth year, he or she may retake the examination during the next consecutive scheduled MOC exam administration without change in Board certification status. If the diplomate fails the MOC exam on the second attempt, his/her certification status will be reported as "Not Certified".

Change of Status from 'Not Certified' to 'Certified-Meeting MOC Requirements'

Physicians with lapsed certificates who were initially certified in the 10-Year MOC program may regain certification by meeting the CC/MOC activity requirements for the year in which they wish to recertify and by passing the CC/MOC examination or passing a set of article assessments

Specific Requirements: Continuing Certification/MOC (CC/MOC) Program

Program for Diplomates certified or recertified beginning in 2012

Beginning in 2012, diplomates who certify or recertify are enrolled in the Continuing Certification/MOC (CC/MOC) Program.

Certificates issued in the program do not have an end date as continuing certification is contingent upon meeting all requirements of the program.

General Requirements

- Maintain an active, full, unrestricted medical license in the United States or Canada.
- Complete and attest to the following CC/MOC activities for each 3-year block in the Physician Folios account 'Activity Attestation' section:
 - 90 Category 1 CME credits (includes SA-CME)
 - 24 Self-Assessment (SA-CME) credits
 - One Patient Safety Activity (See your Physician Folios account to learn if this one-time requirement applies to you)
 - One Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) activity*
- Pay the Annual Fee(s) (\$175 for one certificate).
- Pass a CC/MOC exam for each certification every 10 years or Article Based Continuing Certification (ABCC) pathway.

The activities can be in either one's general specialty and/or subspecialty(ies). CME credits can be derived from any Category 1 CME credits relevant to one's field of practice (they do not need to be ABPN-approved). The Self-Assessment CME (SA-CME), PIP, and Patient Safety activities must be ABPN-approved.

See page 12 for information on Alternative CC/MOC Activity Options such as MOC Activity Waiver for Fellowships, Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program and Reciprocal CC/MOC credit.

Diplomates Not Meeting CC/MOC Requirements

Diplomates in CC/MOC need to satisfy all the CC/MOC requirements per three-year block to maintain their certification status. A diplomate will be reported as "Certified- Not Meeting MOC Requirements" if he/she does not sign on to his/her ABPN Physician Folios account, pay the annual fee and attest to completed activity requirements by the end of a 3-year block. A diplomate may change his/her status to "Meeting MOC Requirements" by completing insufficient block activities, current block activities, and payment of all required fees. A diplomate will be reported as "Not Certified" if he/she does not complete 6 years (2 blocks) of CC/MOC requirements.

Insufficient or partial annual fees and CC/MOC activity requirements (CME, Self-Assessment, Patient Safety Activity and PIP) completed prior to a lapse in certification may not be used towards future CC/MOC blocks. Those fees and activities will expire along with the certificate(s).

Change of Status from 'Not Certified' to 'Certified-Meeting CC/MOC Requirements'

Once certification lapses, a diplomate may change his/her status back to "Certified- Meeting MOC Requirements" upon successful completion of one block of CC/MOC requirements and passing a CC/MOC examination or passing the required number of article assessments.

Responsibilities of Diplomates

- Diplomates are responsible for understanding and following current requirements for CC/MOC and submitting application materials for CC/MOC examinations by the appropriate deadlines.
- Diplomates are responsible for keeping their medical license information up to date.
- Diplomates are responsible for keeping their mailing and email address up to date.
- Diplomates are required to continuously satisfy their CME, SA, Patient Safety, and PIP requirements.
- Diplomates are responsible for choosing their own CC/MOC activities. Physicians may choose the Continuing Medical Education, Self-Assessment and Improvement in Medical Practice plans that will best address their own needs, expand their expertise, and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their practice. Any Category 1 CME activities that are relevant to their practice will be acceptable. Self-Assessment and PIP activities must be chosen from the ABPN Approved Products List.
- Diplomates must successfully complete the CC/MOC examination or continue to pass the required number of article assessments in all specialties and/or subspecialties in which they are certified in order to retain certification in that specialty/subspecialty.
- Diplomates currently in the 10-year MOC Program must attest to the completion of the required activities on their applications for the CC/MOC examinations.
- Diplomates must keep a file of documentation related to completed CC/MOC activities. In the event of an audit, ABPN may request documentation of completed CC/MOC activities from the past 10-year period.

Responsibilities of the ABPN

- The ABPN will provide online services for the convenience of diplomates through ABPN Physician Folios. The Physician Folios includes mechanisms for tracking diplomates' CC/MOC requirements and activities, online applications for applying and paying for CC/MOC examinations and updating personal contact information in www.abpn.com/folios.
- The ABPN will provide regular reminders to diplomates regarding requirements, CC/MOC examination reminders, updates to the CC/MOC program, and other information of interest to diplomates. This information will be provided by email or via the website (www.abpn.com).
- The ABPN will make available a current examination schedule on our website (www.abpn.com). This examination schedule will include examination date choices and application deadlines. Applications are made through ABPN Physician Folios and are available three months before the initial deadline. Applications received after the initial deadline will incur a late fee.
- The ABPN will make available online *Information for Applicants* publications for each examination three months before the application deadline. These publications will provide detailed information about the requirements for admission and the administration of each examination and will remain available for reference until the subsequent publication. A blueprint describing the content of each examination will be available on the website.
- The ABPN will collaborate with professional organizations to ensure the availability of adequate numbers of SA and PIP CC/MOC products.
- The ABPN staff will be available by phone or email during regular business hours to answer questions about requirements and examinations and offer ABPN Physician Folios and CC/MOC support.

ABPN Physician Folios

The ABPN Physician Folios is a single information source for physicians in all stages of his/her relationship with the ABPN - from resident through seasoned diplomate engaged in CC/MOC. All ABPN Board Certified physicians have an ABPN Physician Folios account.

Your ABPN Physician Folios account is a customized and secure portal to:

- Manage and update personal contact information
- Keep medical licenses up to date
- Apply and pay for exams
- View and attest to your CC/MOC requirements
- Pay your annual fee
- View score results

Please visit the ABPN website at www.abpn.com, click the ABPN Physician Folios button and follow the instructions to activate your account.

How do I activate an account?

In order to log in to the secure portal, you must have an established relationship with the ABPN through one of the following methods:

- You are a diplomate of the ABPN.
- Your training program has entered your residency and/or your fellowship training into the ABPN preCERT® system.
- You have previously applied for an ABPN examination.

1. Go to www.abpn.com/folios. You may wish to bookmark ("ctrl D") the login page for future quick reference.
2. Click on the 'Activate Account' box
3. A secondary authentication page will be launched asking for your current email address, first name, last name, birth date, and the last four digits of your social security number. (If the system is not able to authenticate you using these pieces of information, you can click on the Activate Account Assistance link for instructions.)
4. Upon authentication and activation, you will be emailed a link to finish resetting your password.
5. Follow the prompts to reset your password to access your account.

See our [ABPN Physician Folios How to Flyer](#) for more information. For questions, please email questions@abpn.com.

Finally

The ABPN has made every effort to create an CC/MOC program that will meet the requirements of our diplomates well into the future. The program is modified periodically to adjust to changes in the needs of our diplomates and to meet new requirements of the ABMS.

It is the desire of the ABPN to continue to provide services that will enhance our diplomates' practice. To that end, the Board welcomes the comments and ideas of our diplomates and encourages them to contact the ABPN office at questions@abpn.com with any questions or concerns.

For more information, please visit the Continuing Certification/Maintain Certification section at www.abpn.com.

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