Maintenance of Certification Program

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

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The ABPN MOC Program is provided as a service to diplomates of the ABPN. The program includes examination format options, tracking options, online examination registration, and a structure that will assist diplomates in remaining up-to-date in their respective fields. It is the expectation of the Board that diplomates will use the tools provided to keep themselves abreast of improvements in their individual fields and thus maintain their certification.

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 MOC through institutional quality improvement programs. The MOC program will endeavor to recognize those efforts. ABPN has worked to develop a clear 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. The goal of the MOC program is to ensure excellence of patient care and encourage and support practice improvement.

The 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.

History of Recertification and Maintenance of Certification

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.

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 certificates 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.

Due to a mandate of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the recertification program transitioned to MOC in 2007. Before 2007, diplomates could recertify simply by taking the recertification examination. Beginning in 2007, admission to the recertification (now called MOC) examination required prerequisites. The change from recertification to MOC strengthened the program and guaranteed that physicians were current in ways not immediately available for testing.
General Conditions of Maintenance of Certification

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

Specialty certification 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.

Certifications in most subspecialties are dependent upon the primary specialty. Diplomates with certificates in any subspecialty other than child and adolescent psychiatry must also maintain certification in their specialty in order to maintain certification in the area of subspecialization. Diplomates in neurodevelopmental disabilities must maintain certification in neurology with special qualification in child neurology. If certification in the primary specialty lapses, certification in any subspecialty except child and adolescent psychiatry is no longer valid.

Diplomates in child and adolescent psychiatry do not need to maintain current certification in general psychiatry for their subspecialty certification in child and adolescent psychiatry to remain valid.

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

Maintenance of Certification program participation includes meeting all MOC requirements, [Professional Standing, Continuing Medical Education credits (CME), Self-Assessment (SA), and Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP)] as well as passing the MOC examination. Maintenance of Certification requirements must be completed prior to submitting an application 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 MOC examination formats are available for physicians who wish to maintain certification in more than one area.

The expertise component of the MOC program is the MOC (previously recertification) examination. A passing score on the MOC examination automatically enrolls the diplomate into the Continuous Maintenance of Certification (C-MOC) Program. Once enrolled in C-MOC, diplomates will need to satisfy the MOC activity requirements and pay the Annual Fee.

Maintenance of Certification 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 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 MOC program.

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

1. Diplomates can take a MOC examination and be automatically enrolled in C-MOC upon passing the MOC examination or

2. Diplomates can elect to enroll in C-MOC, complete one block of MOC activity requirement credit [90 Category 1 CME, of which 24 need to come from Self-Assessment CME, and one Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) Unit], and then pass the MOC exam within three years.

To elect into C-MOC, diplomates need to follow the prompts to “Switch to the C-MOC program” in his/her ABPN Physician Folios account’s Maintenance of Certification section, under the MOC Guide tab. There is a C-MOC Annual Fee of $175 that will be credited to a future MOC exam.

Lifetime certificate holders who voluntarily participate in the MOC program and do not pass the MOC examination will not lose their lifetime certificate. Lifetime certificate holders who do not participate in MOC will be reported to the ABMS and on the ABPN website as, ‘Certified-not meeting MOC requirements and not required to do so’.
MOC Examinations and Diplomate Audits

Maintenance of Certification examinations in psychiatry, neurology, child neurology and child and adolescent psychiatry are offered two times per year. Maintenance of Certification examinations for subspecialties are offered annually beginning in the ninth year the subspecialty exists.

Combined MOC examinations are available for physicians who wish to recertify in more than one specialty and/or subspecialty at the same time. Combined examinations consist of 100 questions from each specialty or subspecialty area. Any MOC examinations administered by ABPN are available to be combined into this examination format. Examinations administered by other Boards (e.g., brain injury medicine, hospice and palliative medicine, pain medicine and sleep medicine) are not available in the combined format.

Applications and current Information for Applicants publications for each examination are available three months before the deadline indicated on the examination schedule. Applications are submitted through ABPN Physician Folios (www.abpn.com/folios). Information for Applicants publications and the current examination schedule can be found at www.abpn.com.

Diplomate Audits

The ABPN will audit approximately five percent of the applications submitted for the MOC examination. Candidates whose applications are audited will receive an email detailing the documentation required as evidence of completion of required MOC activities (CME, SA and PIP activities). Failure to return this documentation will result in the denial of the application for the MOC examination.

The ABPN will also audit approximately five percent of the diplomates in the C-MOC program, each year. Diplomates who are selected for audit will receive an email detailing the documentation required as evidence of completion of required MOC activities (CME, SA and PIP activities).

For those diplomates who fail the C-MOC program audit:

Your certification status will be changed to Certified – Not Meeting MOC Requirements. You will have the remaining time in your second block to provide your ABPN Credentials auditor with the documentation to satisfy the requirements of the audit. If the requirements of the audit are met within this timeframe, your audit may be changed to a PASS status and your certification status will be updated to “Certified-Meeting MOC Requirements”. If the requirements of the audit have not been met by the end of the second 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 about audits.

The Two Maintenance of Certification Programs

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

- The 10-Year MOC Program for diplomates with time-limited certificates issued prior to 2012; and
- the Continuous MOC (C-MOC) Program for diplomates who took an exam (initial certification or MOC) in 2012 or later.

Diplomates who do not maintain their certification according to the requirements of the MOC program in which they are enrolled are no longer certified.

A description of the requirements unique to each program can be found in this booklet along with details on common requirements for ALL diplomates (see pages 4-7). The 10-year MOC program description on pages 9-10 includes a schedule for physicians recertifying between 2017 and 2021 with the activity requirements that must be met prior to applying for an MOC examination. The C-MOC program activity requirements are based on 3-year blocks and are outlined on pages 11-13.
Common Requirements: Maintenance of Certification for ALL Diplomates

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

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

Any CME, SA and PIP activities completed will apply to all specialties and/or 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 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 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 www.abpn.com. Licenses must be kept up-to-date in an ABPN Physician Folios account.

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

A. Continuing Medical Education (CME)
Diplomates are required to complete an average of 30 specialty or subspecialty CME credits per year. CME must be relevant to the specialty and/or subspecialties in which the diplomate practices. 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. Diplomates certified in more than one area only need to accrue an average of 30 CME credits per year, because the same CME credits can be used to satisfy CME requirements for multiple specialties and subspecialties.

• Diplomates must accrue an average of 30 Category 1 CME credits per year (averaged over three years).
• CME does not need to be preapproved by ABPN or be selected from the ABPN Approved Products List.
• CME must be relevant to the specialty and/or subspecialty in which the diplomate practices.

B. Self-Assessment (SA)
Diplomates are required to complete ABPN-approved Self-Assessment activities. SA requirements may be fulfilled by multiple SA activities. Each SA activity must cover new knowledge and/or current best practices in one or more of the competency areas and provide feedback that can be used by the diplomate as the basis for focused CME, lifelong learning, and/or career development. That feedback must include the correct answer, recommended literature resources for each question and comparative performance to peers.

• Diplomates can choose Self-Assessment activities most relevant to them from the ABPN Approved Products List or complete a non-CME SA option.
• CME credits from SA activities contribute toward total CME credits per year.
• Diplomates in C-MOC must complete an average of at least eight SA CME credits per year, averaged over three years.
• Diplomates in the 10-Year MOC program must complete at least 24 Self-Assessment CME credits prior to applying for recertification.

C. Non-CME Self-Assessment
• The ABPN will waive eight SA CME credits for the completion of a non-CME SA activity.
• The ABPN will waive a maximum of 16 SA CME credits for two different types of non-CME SA activities in one three-year MOC block.
• Diplomates in C-MOC must complete the approved non-CME SA 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 2017-2021, must complete the non-CME SA activities within the 3 years prior to applying for the MOC examination.
Common Requirements: Maintenance of Certification for ALL Diplomates Continued

Applicable Non-CME Self-Assessment Activities
Diplomates may choose to do one or two of the following non-CME SA activities to satisfy a part of the Self-Assessment requirement:

• Passing an ABPN certification or MOC examination within the current MOC block;
• 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 the scientific grant credit*;
• Peer-reviewed journal article publication, indexed in the MEDLINE database;
• Four hours of supervision from a supervisor or peer with written feedback about the diplomate’s clinical performance, medical knowledge and patient care*; or
• Formal institutional peer review committee with written feedback about the diplomate’s clinical performance, medical knowledge and patient care*.

*Must be submitted to ABPN for preapproval. Submit documentation to questions@abpn.com.

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

Diplomates are required to use only ABPN-approved products for Self-Assessment activities. The ABPN Approved Products List can be found on the ABPN website (www.abpn.com). The ABPN will approve additional activities over time and reserves the right to approve or reject any course or guideline submitted for approval.

3. Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills

Passing the MOC examination at least once every 10 years fulfills the assessment of knowledge, judgment and skills component of the program. To sit for an MOC examination, all current MOC requirements must be satisfied at the time one applies for the MOC examination. The ABPN will audit 5% of applicants for the examination. Audited applicants must provide documentation of CME, SA and PIP activities.

Practice-relevant, clinically oriented, multiple-choice, computer-administered examinations are delivered in over 200 Pearson VUE testing centers across the United States and Canada.

To prepare for the MOC examinations, diplomates should keep current with research and developments in their field, review specialty-specific journals and practice guidelines, and attend relevant CME programs.

• Diplomates must pass the MOC examination at least once every 10 years.
• Maintenance of Certification program participation includes meeting all MOC requirements. All MOC components must be met at the time of application for examination for the 10-year MOC Program.
• Maintenance of Certification examinations for psychiatry, neurology, child neurology and child and adolescent psychiatry are currently administered twice in a calendar year.
• Combined MOC examinations are available for physicians who wish to recertify in more than one specialty and/or subspecialty at the same time. See the Combined Exams section of the website for more information.

4. Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP)

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

This quality improvement exercise is designed to identify and implement areas 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).
Common Requirements: Maintenance of Certification for ALL Diplomates
Continued

A. Clinical Chart Review Module

A diplomate can choose 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
- Participate in a Joint Commission Certified Primary or Comprehensive Stroke Center
- Participate in a Joint Commission accredited, specialty-specific Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE) that meets the ABPN MOC requirements; submit for preapproval
- Complete a quality improvement effort under the auspices of an International Certification Organization (e.g. RCPS-C) that meets the ABPN MOC requirements; submit for preapproval or
- Seek individual preapproval (at no charge) for your own developed, or your institution’s quality improvement efforts

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

With a Feedback Module, preapproval is not needed if the questionnaire/survey meets general competencies. The six general competencies to be reviewed on the feedback forms are medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, patient care, and system-based practices.

A diplomate can collect feedback using one of the following options:

- Select a Feedback Module from the ABPN Approved Products List
- Collect patient* feedback from five patients
- Collect peer** feedback from five peers
- Collect resident evaluations from five respondents
- Collect 360 degree evaluations from five respondents
- Obtain institutional peer reviews from five respondents or
- Obtain a supervisor evaluation from one supervisor

Model 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.
**How to Complete a PIP Feedback Module**

**Step A: Initial assessment of patient OR peer feedback.**
- Diplomates must obtain personal performance feedback from either their peers or patients regarding their own clinical activity during the previous three years.
- Diplomates choose ONE type of feedback from one of the approved Feedback Modules.

**Step B: Identify and implement improvement.**
- Based on results from feedback, diplomates must then identify opportunities for improvement to the effectiveness and/or efficiency in their 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 same or different patients or peers.
- Use the same feedback option for the initial assessment and reassessment steps.

**General Information About the PIP Unit**
- Please allow ample time to complete the PIP Unit (Steps A, B and C).
- Use the same feedback option for the initial assessment and reassessment steps.
- One PIP Unit is required every 3 years for the C-MOC Program.
- 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 Unit and submit information about their process and improvement plan.
- The ABPN Audit Guidelines for Diplomates document on the website lists the documentation needed in the event of an audit.

**Note:** Only those diplomates in the 2013-2015 C-MOC block must complete BOTH a Clinical Module and a Feedback Module for that specific C-MOC block.

**5. Patient Safety Activity**

All diplomates entering the ABPN C-MOC Program whose first block is 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.

For example:
- A diplomate who is recertifying in 2017 can complete the patient safety activity within the three years prior to recertifying (2014-2016) OR during their first C-MOC block (2018-2020).
- A candidate who is taking their initial certification exam in 2017 can complete the patient safety activity within the three years prior to certifying (2014-2016) OR during their first C-MOC block (2018-2020).

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.

**General Information**
- The patient safety activity is a one-time requirement.
- Starting in 2017, diplomates will be able to attest to a patient safety activity in their ABPN Physician Folios account.
- 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.
1. MOC Activity Waiver for Fellowships
A three-year block of C-MOC requirements (CME, SA, 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 subspecialty exam. Diplomates will receive a three-year block 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 are required to pay the annual fee.

If a diplomate believes he/she is eligible for the credit, but does not receive notice of the credit waiver, he/she should contact the Board via questions@abpn.com.

2. Multi-Specialty MOC Portfolio Program
The ABPN recognizes that many physicians already participate in quality improvement (QI) efforts in their local institutions. The ABMS Multi-Specialty MOC 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 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 Unit.

3. Reciprocal Maintenance of Certification 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 be able to claim that Self-Assessment (Part II) and/or Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) credit for the ABPN MOC Program.

In order to maintain ABPN certification, diplomates will need to:
• Satisfy all four components of MOC:
  1. Maintain full, unrestricted medical licensure;
  2. Complete CME, Self-Assessment, and Patient Safety activities;
  3. Pass the ABPN MOC exam every 10 years;
  4. Complete an Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) activity
• Complete the reciprocal MOC credit during the current ABPN MOC block.
• Provide documentation from the other board if audited.
• If enrolled in the C-MOC program, attest to the reciprocal credit in the ‘Activity Attestation’ section of ABPN Physician Folios, and pay the annual fee.

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

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 Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) Units
   B. Engaged in direct and/or consultative care not sufficient to complete PIP Units
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 MOC program including PIP units.
   • Diplomates who are in categories 1B or 2 above are required to complete all components of the MOC program except PIP units.
   • A change in diplomate status from 1B or 2 to 1A requires the completion of at least one PIP Unit.

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Specific Requirements: 10-Year MOC Program

Program for Diplomates certified before 2012

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 (see page 2). Once a former diplomate completes all MOC activity requirements and passes the MOC examination, he or she will regain certification status and be automatically enrolled in the C-MOC program (see C-MOC program requirements). The ABPN recommends that diplomates sit for the MOC examination the year in which the diplomate’s certificate is due to expire so that there is no lapse in certification status.

Physicians with expired certificates who wish to recertify must meet the MOC activity requirements of the year in which they wish to take the MOC examination.

Diplomates are required to take the recertification exam every ten years. Applications are available the year before the MOC exam. The deadline to apply for an MOC exam ranges from 3 to 6 months prior to the exam so diplomates are encouraged to review the Exam Schedule for upcoming exam administrations and application deadlines. Diplomates in the 10-Year MOC program must complete all CME, Self-Assessment, and PIP activities prior to applying for the MOC exam.

Application Requirements:
- 300 Category 1 CME credits (150 in each five-year block)*
- 24 Self-Assessment (SA) CME credits
- One Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) Unit -- consisting of one Clinical Module OR one Feedback Module

* including CME credits from SA

The 10-Year MOC program will sunset December 31, 2021. After that date, all diplomates, other than those with lifetime certificates, will be automatically enrolled in the C-MOC program and required to satisfy the MOC activities and pay the annual fee in order to maintain certification.

Physicians certified or recertified in 2012 or later should refer to the C-MOC section on page 11.

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 MOC examination in the year in which they wish to recertify will not be admitted to the examination.
- Diplomates must pass a MOC exam every ten years and have two consecutive attempts to do so.
- Diplomates will be allowed to retake the examination within one year of the failed/missed examination without change in Board certification status. If the diplomate fails or misses the MOC examination on the second attempt, he/she will be reported as “Not Certified”.

Change of Status from ‘Not Certified’ to ‘Certified and Maintaining Certification’

Physicians with lapsed certificates who were initially certified in the 10-Year MOC program may regain certification by meeting the MOC activity requirements for the year in which they wish to recertify and by passing the MOC examination.
Summary: 10-Year Program Requirements

• Maintain a full, unrestricted medical license.
• Completion of 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) Unit -- Consisting of one Clinical Module OR one Feedback Module
• Pass a MOC exam for each certification every 10 years.

The following chart illustrates the examination application prerequisites for the remaining years of the 10-Year MOC program. All prerequisites will be required beginning in 2016 for physicians recertifying in 2017. The 10-Year MOC program will be eliminated after 2021.

![10-Year MOC Program Requirements Table]

- All CME, SA and PIP activities must be completed prior to applying for MOC examination.
- SA CME credits contribute to the overall number of required CME.
- SA and PIP activities must be ABPN-approved. See www.abpn.com for additional information.
**Specific Requirements: Continuous Maintenance of Certification (C-MOC)**

**Program for Diplomates certified or recertified beginning in 2012**

Beginning in 2012, diplomates who certify or recertify are automatically enrolled into the Continuous Maintenance of Certification (C-MOC) Program. Diplomates certified before 2012, including lifetime certificate holders, may elect to participate in the program through their Physician Folios account.

The ABMS requires that the ABPN report on an annual basis whether every diplomate is still certified and if each is actively maintaining board certification.

The C-MOC program assists diplomates in complying with MOC requirements and timeframes. The program also facilitates the required annual attestation by diplomates, payment of the annual fee, and the reporting of diplomate participation to the ABMS.

The C-MOC program is organized through the use of ABPN Physician Folios. Using the link on the homepage of the ABPN website (www.abpn.com), physicians can activate accounts that will enable them to keep their demographic and license information up to date, view and attest to their MOC activities, and apply and pay for examinations and annual MOC fees. Physicians must activate an ABPN Physician Folios account on the ABPN website to begin the MOC process and gain the benefits of the program.

While passing an MOC examination is still required at least every ten years, a diplomate’s certification status is dependent upon fulfillment of all four MOC program requirements (Professional Standing, CME and SA, Assessment of Knowledge, Judgement and Skills, and PIP), along with annually attesting to completed MOC activities in the ABPN’s Physician Folios and payment of the annual fee.

Diplomates must complete MOC requirements in three-year blocks. Diplomates must satisfy and attest to the following activity requirements **every three years**:

- 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 requirement applies to you)
- One Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) Unit -- consisting of one Clinical Module OR one Feedback Module*

*Only those diplomates in the 2013-2015 C-MOC block must complete BOTH a Clinical Module and a Feedback Module for that specific C-MOC block.

Instead of a single fee at the time of the MOC examination, participants in the C-MOC program pay an annual fee. This fee covers Maintenance of Board Certification status, use of a personalized ABPN Physician Folios account with customized MOC tracker, and development and administrative costs of MOC examinations, including credit towards an MOC examination in a ten-year period. Certificates issued in the C-MOC Program do not have an end date as continuous certification is contingent upon meeting all parts of the C-MOC Program.

See page 8 for information on Alternative MOC Activity Options such as MOC Activity Waiver for Fellowships, Multi-Specialty MOC Portfolio Program and Reciprocal Maintenance of Certification credit

There are several advantages C-MOC program participants gain:

- Annual fee instead of a large fee at the time of application
- Customized list of MOC activities that can be provided to employers, hospitals, licensing boards, etc.
- Reminders from the ABPN regarding MOC requirements that are due to be completed
- Easy-to-use system to track individual requirements
- Personalized ABPN Physician Folios account
Diplomate 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 are required to attest to their completed MOC activities and pay their annual fee in three year blocks through their ABPN Physician Folios account.
- Diplomates who do not complete one block of the MOC program by the end of the three years will be reported as “Certified-Not Meeting MOC Requirements.”
- Diplomates who do not complete two blocks of the MOC program by the end of 6 years will be reported as “Not Certified.”
- After 6 years of insufficient MOC activities, a physician must complete one block of requirements, pay the full exam fee, and pass the MOC examination to have their certification reinstated.
- Diplomates will be allowed to retake the examination within one year of the failed/missed examination without change in Board certification status. If the diplomate fails or misses the MOC examination on the second attempt, he/she will be reported as “Not Certified”.

### Change of Status from ‘Not Meeting MOC Requirements’ or ‘Not Certified’ to ‘Certified and Maintaining Certification’

- Diplomates who have not met all MOC activity requirements for one block (three years) of the program will be reported as, ‘Not Meeting MOC Requirements’. The status may be revised to, ‘Certified-Meeting MOC Requirements’ if diplomates complete insufficient block activities, current block activities, and pay all required fees.
- Diplomates who miss more than two blocks (6 years) of MOC activities will be reported as ‘Not Certified’. The status may be revised to, ‘Certified and Meeting MOC Requirements’ upon successful completion of the following:
  - A full, unrestricted medical license
  - 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 requirement applies to you)
  - One Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) Unit -- consisting of one Clinical Module OR one Feedback Module
  - Pay the Annual Fee.
  - Pass the MOC examination for each certification every 10 years.

### Summary: C-MOC Program Requirements

- Maintain a full, unrestricted medical license.
- Complete and attest to the following 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 requirement applies to you)
  - One Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) Unit -- consisting of one Clinical Module OR one Feedback Module
- Pay the Annual Fee.
- Pass the MOC examination for each certification every 10 years.
### Continuous MOC (C-MOC) Program Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Certification or Recertification Year</th>
<th>MOC Application Due Date</th>
<th>MOC Exam Year</th>
<th>Medical License</th>
<th>CME Credits</th>
<th>CME from SA Activities</th>
<th>PIP Unit</th>
<th>Patient Safety Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012 - 2015</td>
<td>Applications due approximately three to six months prior to the exam (Please check the exam schedule on the website)</td>
<td>Every ten years for every certificate</td>
<td>Active, full, unrestricted license No restrictions on any license</td>
<td>90 Every three years</td>
<td>CME from SA contributes to overall CME credits</td>
<td>24 Every three years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 to present</td>
<td>Applications due approximately three to six months prior to the exam (Please check the exam schedule on the website)</td>
<td>Every ten years for every certificate</td>
<td>Active, full, unrestricted license No restrictions on any license</td>
<td>90 Every three years</td>
<td>CME from SA contributes to overall CME credits</td>
<td>24 Every three years</td>
<td>1 One-time Requirement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Diplomate’s certification status is dependent upon fulfillment of all four C-MOC Program requirements.
- Diplomates must attest to completed activities each year in the Physician Folios account ‘Activity Attestation’ section.
- Diplomates must pay the annual fee in the Physician Folios account.
- All CME, SA, and PIP activities must be completed every three years.
- SA CME credits contribute to the overall number of required CME.
- SA and PIP activities must be ABPN-approved. See [www.abpn.com](http://www.abpn.com) for additional information.
Responsibilities of Diplomates

- Diplomates are responsible for understanding and following current requirements for MOC and submitting application materials for 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, and PIP requirements.
- Diplomates are responsible for choosing their own 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 MOC examination in all specialties and/or subspecialties in which they are certified in order to retain certification in that specialty/subspecialty (with the exception of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry).
- Diplomates currently in the 10-year MOC Program must attest to the completion of the required activities on their applications for the MOC examinations.
- Diplomates must keep a file of documentation related to completed MOC activities. In the event of an audit, ABPN may request documentation of completed 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’ MOC requirements and activities, online applications for applying and paying for MOC examinations, and updating personal contact information.
- The ABPN will provide regular reminders to diplomates regarding requirements, updates to the 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 MOC products.
- The ABPN staff will be available by phone and email during regular business hours to answer questions about requirements and examinations and offer ABPN Physician Folios and MOC support.
ABPN Physician Folios

The ABPN Physician Folios offers a single information source for a physician at all the various stages of his/her relationship with the ABPN - from resident through seasoned diplomate engaged in MOC. ABPN Physician Folios offers a personalized account where physicians can manage and update personal contact information, keep licensure information up-to-date, apply for and pay for examinations, as well as view and attest to their MOC activities.

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

What's in the site?
The ABPN Physician Folios site gives you access to two main functions: Views and Actions. Views are simply displays of information. The actionable items that can be performed are typically stated as such and appear in an underlined dark red font like these examples: Apply for an Examination or Update License Information.

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. You may wish to bookmark ("ctrl D") the login page for future quick reference.
2) Click the blue “Physician Folios” box on the homepage of the website; 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, a unique case-sensitive password will be emailed to you.
5) Return to Physician Folios on www.abpn.com, enter your email address and your password, click login.
6) Once you log in, you can change your password by clicking on the Change Password link at the top of the page.

For questions, please email questions@abpn.com.

Finally

The ABPN has made every effort to create an 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 feedback@abpn.com with any questions or concerns.

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