



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

Frequently Asked Questions about Continuous Maintenance of Certification (C-MOC)

Why is ABPN moving to a Continuous MOC Program?

The Continuous Maintenance of Certification Program (C-MOC) facilitates the required annual completion and attestation of diplomate MOC participation. The program promotes ongoing professional development and improvement in patient care. The ABMS requires that the ABPN report annually if a diplomate is still certified and if he/she is meeting MOC requirements.

Who participates in C-MOC?

Beginning in 2012, all diplomates who pass any examination are enrolled into the Continuous MOC (C-MOC) Program. Diplomates who pass an examination prior to 2012 will remain in the 10-year MOC Program until he/she sits for another exam.

What about lifetime certificate holders?

Lifetime certificate holders (those who hold certificates prior to October 1, 1994) will not be required to participate in this program. A physician who chooses to not enter the C-MOC program will be listed as “Certified, but not meeting MOC requirements and not required to do so”.

Should I participate in the C-MOC program if I have a “lifetime” certificate?

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. If a lifetime certificate holder voluntarily participates in the ABPN MOC Program and does not pass the examination, that individual will not lose his/her “lifetime” certificate.

How does a lifetime certificate holder enter the C-MOC Program?

The ABPN understands that some physicians holding lifetime certificates may wish to complete the requirements and enter the C-MOC program. A lifetime certificate holder can participate in C-MOC in one of two ways:

1. Diplomates can apply for and take an MOC examination and be automatically enrolled in C-MOC upon passing the MOC examination. There is no MOC activity requirement for lifetime certificate holders to sit for 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 credits, of which 24 need to come from SA CME, and one Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) unit), and then sit for the MOC exam within the three year enrollment block. These diplomates will be listed as “meeting MOC requirements” from the date they enroll in C-MOC.

Failure to pass the MOC examination will have no impact on the lifetime certificate.

Why is there an annual MOC program fee?

The annual fee covers maintenance of Board Certification status, use of a personalized ABPN Physician Folios account with customized MOC tracker, and development and administrative costs for MOC examinations, including credit towards one MOC examination in a ten-year period. The fee also includes regular email reminders and updates from ABPN so that a diplomate does not fall behind with requirements.

What do I do for MOC if I have multiple certificates?

If a diplomate has multiple certificates, he/she needs to complete only one set of MOC activity requirements (CME, SA and PIP). The activities can be either in a general specialty and/or a subspecialty field. However, if the diplomate is certified in more than one specialty/subspecialty (e.g. psychiatry and neurology) and wants to maintain certificates in both, the diplomate must pass examinations in both areas (e.g. psychiatry and neurology) or take a combined MOC examination for up to three specialties and subspecialties at one time.

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

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 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 did not receive notice of the credit waiver, he/she should contact the Board via questions@abpn.com.

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

A diplomate is required to pay their annual fee and view and attest to his/her MOC activities through ABPN Physician Folios. 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.

What happens if I do not pay the annual fee?

A diplomate will be reported as “Certified-Not Meeting MOC Requirements” if he/she does not pay the annual fee by the end of a three year block.

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

A diplomate will be reported as “Certified-Not Meeting MOC Requirements” if he/she has not met all of the MOC requirements by the end of a three year block.

What if I miss more than three years (one block) of MOC activities?

A diplomate will be reported as “Certified-Not Meeting MOC Requirements” if he/she does not complete one block of the program by the end of three years. A diplomate may change his/her status back to “Certified and Meeting MOC

Requirements” upon successful completion of insufficient block activities, current block activities and payment of all required fees.

How can I change my status from “Certified-Not Meeting MOC Requirements” to “Certified-Meeting MOC Requirements”?

A diplomate will be reported as “Not Meeting MOC Requirements” if he/she has not met all MOC requirements for one block (three years). 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.

What if I miss more than six years (two blocks) of MOC activities?

A diplomate will be reported as “Not certified” if he/she does not complete more than 6 years (2 blocks) of MOC activities. A diplomate may change his/her status back to “Certified-Meeting MOC requirements” upon successful completion of all MOC activities included in one block:

- An unrestricted medical license(s) and no restrictions on any license
- 90 Category 1 CME hours total (including CME credits from SA activities)
- 24 CME hours of self-assessment (SA) activities
- 1 Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) Unit
- 1 Patient Safety Activity (beginning in 2017)
- Pay the full examination fee and pass the MOC examination

What happens if I fail the MOC examination?

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”.

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

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