



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

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# ABPN Maintenance of Certification Program

(rev. 09/29/07)

*NOTE: All policies, components, and requirements of the ABPN's Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program are subject to change. It is the responsibility of each individual ABPN diplomate to remain apprised of the current applicable MOC Program. As such, diplomates are encouraged to consult the ABPN's website ([www.abpn.com](http://www.abpn.com)) regularly to ascertain whether any changes have been made.*

The information contained in this booklet supercedes the information in all previously printed publications concerning Board requirements, policies, and procedures. For the most current information, please visit our web site at [www.abpn.com](http://www.abpn.com).

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### Introduction

The Maintenance of Certification Program (MOC) of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology reflects the Board's commitment to lifelong learning throughout one's profession. The mission of 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 MOC program requires diplomates to participate in sanctioned self-assessment performance measures, identify perceived weaknesses in their knowledge, pursue learning activities tailored to areas that need to be strengthened, and develop quality improvement programs based on their clinical practice. The goal is for diplomates to reflect on their personal knowledge and performance and commit to a process of improvement and reevaluation of performance measures over a specified time frame that will ultimately lead to improved care for their patients.

Diplomates are responsible for their own self-assessment, continuing education, and practice improvement plans, and they can choose the learning tools that will best address their perceived needs, expand their expertise, and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their practice.

As of October 1, 1994, all individuals achieving Board certification by the ABPN are issued 10-year, time-limited certificates. Certificates issued in the subspecialties of addiction psychiatry, clinical neurophysiology, forensic psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry, hospice and palliative medicine, neurodevelopmental disabilities, neuromuscular medicine, pain medicine, psychosomatic medicine, sleep medicine, and vascular neurology, including those issued prior to October 1, 1994, are 10-year, time-limited certificates. Time-limited certificates for child and adolescent psychiatry began in 1995. All ABPN time-limited certificates, regardless of their exact dates of issuance, are considered to expire 10 years later on December 31.

Diplomates who are not recertified before their certificates expire are no longer Board certified in that area of certification. Once a former diplomate completes all MOC requirements and passes the MOC examination, however, he or she will regain certification status.

Diplomates with certificates in the subspecialties of addiction psychiatry, clinical neurophysiology, forensic psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry, hospice and palliative medicine, neuromuscular medicine, pain medicine, psychosomatic medicine, sleep medicine, and vascular neurology must also maintain certification in their specialty in order to apply for recertification in the area of subspecialization. Diplomates in neurodevelopmental disabilities must maintain certification in neurology with special qualification in child neurology. If certification in the specialty lapses, certification in the subspecialty is no longer valid.

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

There is no time limit on regaining certification status through maintenance of certification. It is the responsibility of diplomates to obtain application materials for maintenance of certification. *Information for Applicants* publications and applications are available to download from [www.abpn.com](http://www.abpn.com).



## The ABPN Maintenance of Certification Program

As mandated by the American Board of Medical Specialties, the Board has developed a 10- year Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. The ABPN MOC program includes four components:

1. Professional Standing
2. Self-Assessment and Lifelong Learning
3. Cognitive Expertise
4. Performance in Practice (PIP)

### Record Keeping, Attestation, Multiple Certificates, and Auditing

Diplomates of the ABPN are required to maintain records of their self-assessment and Continuing Medical Education (CME) activities, and Performance in Practice (PIP) modules. Diplomates must provide their signature attesting to completion of these activities (as determined by the phase-in schedule) on their applications for the MOC examinations. The MOC Program will be fully operational in 2016 at which time attestation to all components will be required on applications for the MOC examinations.

Diplomates are responsible for choosing their self-assessment, lifelong learning, and practice improvement components. Completed activities can be applied to multiple certifications thus fulfilling MOC criteria for one or more specialty or subspecialty areas.

The ABPN will audit approximately five percent of the applications submitted for the cognitive examination. Candidates whose applications are audited will receive a letter detailing the documentation required as evidence of completion of stipulated components (self-assessment program, CME activities, and PIP modules) as determined by the phase-in schedule. Failure to return this documentation may result in the denial of the application for the MOC cognitive examination.

### Phase-In Schedule for ABPN MOC Component Requirements (rev. 09/29/07)

Original Certification Year	MOC Application Year	MOC Examination Year	CME Credits Required	First SA Activity Required	Second SA Activity Required	First PIP Unit Required	Second PIP Unit Required	Third PIP Unit Required
1997	2006	2007	30					
1998	2007	2008	60					
1999	2008	2009	90					
2000	2009	2010	120					
2001	2010	2011	150	X				
2002	2011	2012	180	X				
2003	2012	2013	210	X				
2004	2013	2014	240	X	X	X		
2005	2014	2015	270	X	X	X		
2006	2015	2016	300	X	X	X	X	
2007	2016	2017	300	X	X	X	X	X

**Notes:**

- Every ABPN diplomate must possess a medical license, and all licenses must be unrestricted.
- Each SA activity must total a minimum of 100 questions.
- Only after completing licensure, CME, SA and PIP requirements are diplomates qualified to complete the ABPN MOC Cognitive Examination.

## 1. Professional Standing

To show evidence of professional standing, the ABPN requires that diplomates must hold a license to practice medicine in at least one state, commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States or province of Canada. All medical licenses must be unrestricted.

## 2. Self-Assessment and Lifelong Learning

### A. Self-Assessment Program

Diplomates of the ABPN are required to participate in at least two major, broad-based self-assessment programs during the 10-year MOC cycle. One self-assessment activity must be completed in years 1-3 of the first 5-year block of the cycle, and another self-assessment activity must be completed in years 6-8 of the second 5-year block of the cycle. The self-assessment program must cover current knowledge and/or current best practices in one or more of the required competency areas in a single assessment or in the sum of several combined assessments, **total at least 100 questions**, and provide feedback to the diplomate that can be used as the subsequent basis for focused CME, life long learning and/or career development.

**Examples of such broad-based self-assessment activities approved by the Board for this purpose include:**

#### For Neurology

- Post-reading questions from *Continuum*
- *Quintessentials® Program* modules
- American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) *Self-Assessment* examination
- American Academy of Neurology (AAN) *Self-Assessment* examination

#### For Psychiatry

- *The Psychiatrist in Practice Examination (PIPE)*
- *Focus* annual self-assessment exam supplement
- *APA Practice Guidelines Program*

#### For Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

- *AACAP Module 1 Disruptive Behavior Disorders, Violence and Homicide*
- *AACAP Module 2 Eating Disorders, Feeding/Elimination Disorders, and Substance-related Disorders and Updates on Relevant Topics for Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists*
- *AACAP Module 3 Anxiety Disorders, Trauma (Non-Abuse/Neglect Related), Selective Mutism, and Updates on Relevant Topics for Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists*
- *AACAP Module 4 Schools, Forensics, Community Systems of Care, Consultative Issues, Ethics, Culture, Public Policy/Advocacy, and Updates on Relevant Topics for Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists.*

The Board may approve additional self-assessment programs over time. Diplomates may request consideration of other practice-specific, self-assessment activities by submitting a detailed description of the activity to the Director of New Assessment Initiatives at the Board office. *The ABPN reserves the right to approve or reject any course or guideline submitted for approval.*

### B. Lifelong Learning (CME) Activities

Diplomates of the ABPN are required to complete 150 specialty- or subspecialty-specific, Category 1, CME credits in each of the two 5-year blocks of the MOC cycle, for a total of 300 CME hours.

**The Board will accept CME hours earned through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.**

## 3. Cognitive Expertise

Diplomates of the ABPN fulfill the cognitive expertise component by passing a cognitive examination prior to the expiration date on their certificates. To sit for a cognitive examination, all current MOC requirements must be satisfied. A passing score on the cognitive examination extends the renewal date of the certificate to December 31, 10 years from the year of the cognitive examination.

The cognitive examinations are multiple-choice, computer-based examinations that are administered by Pearson VUE at testing centers in over 200 locations throughout the country. MOC cognitive examinations differ from the initial certification examinations in that they are practice-relevant and focus on the clinical applications of knowledge.

To prepare for the MOC cognitive examinations, a diplomate should keep current with research and developments in the respective field, read specialty-specific journals and practice guidelines, and attend relevant CME programs.



#### 4. Performance in Practice (PIP)

The Performance in Practice component is a quality improvement program designed to evaluate whether physicians have shown practice improvement over the 10-year MOC cycle by chart review and second-party external review. Diplomates will be required to complete three units consisting of both modules.

The criteria for Performance in Practice are distributed as follows:

- The first PIP Unit must be completed in years 1-3 of the 10-year MOC cycle;
- The second PIP Unit must be completed in years 4-6 of the 10-year MOC cycle;
- The third PIP Unit must be completed in years 7-9 of the 10-year MOC cycle.

##### A) Clinical modules (Chart Review)

- PIP clinical modules must use data obtained from or pertinent to a diplomate's personal clinical practice and must evaluate at least five patient cases in a specific category (e.g., diagnosis, type of treatment, treatment setting).
- Modules must compare data from the clinical cases to best practices and/or practice guidelines published in the literature.
- Modules must require the development of a plan by the diplomate to improve his/her performance.
- Modules must reassess data from at least another five cases in the same specific category within 24 months similar to the original assessment.

##### B) Feedback modules (Patient/Peer Review)

- PIP assessment modules must be based on feedback from at least five peers or five patients over the previous three years.
- Modules must provide performance feedback to the diplomate concerning improvement in the effectiveness and/or efficiency of their practice as it relates to the core competencies.
- Modules must present feedback from at least another five peers or patients within 24 months similar to that provided in the original assessment.

Peer Feedback and Patient Feedback forms are available on the web site [www.abpn.com](http://www.abpn.com) as options for PIP completion.

The American Board of Specialty Societies (ABMS) has issued new 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.

“Clinically Active”: Any amount of direct and/or consultative patient care that has been provided in the preceding 24 months.

“Clinically Inactive”: No direct and/or consultative patient care has been provided in the preceding 24 months.

A change in diplomate status from “Clinically Inactive” to “Clinically Active” requires the completion of at least one PIP Unit.

The following subcategories have been developed for classification purposes for both specialties and subspecialties:

##### Clinically Active in Specialty/Subspecialty:

- Not required to, and do not, participate in MOC (lifetime certificate)
- Not required to participate in MOC (lifetime certificate) but do participate in Parts I, II, and III (do not see enough patients to complete Part IV)
- Not required to participate in MOC (lifetime certificate) but do participate in Parts I, II, III, and IV
- Participate in Parts I, II, III of MOC (do not see enough patients to complete Part IV; time-limited certificate)
- Participate in Parts I, II, III, and IV of MOC (time-limited certificate)
- Clinically active in an area not within the scope of competency of my ABPN certificate(s)

##### Clinically Inactive in Specialty/Subspecialty:

- Not required to participate in MOC (lifetime certificate) and do not do so
- Not required to participate in MOC (lifetime certificate) but do participate in Parts I, II, and III of MOC
- Participate in Parts I, II, and III of MOC (time-limited certificate)

##### Clinically Active status is unknown



The ABPN has reviewed the *NetOutcomes* program and has approved this program as part of a comprehensive PIP Unit, which is mandated by the ABMS as a necessary component of MOC. Link to it at [www.abpn.com](http://www.abpn.com).

Use this chart to determine what MOC Program requirements will apply to you. Note: MOC requirements are in addition to licensure and any other ABPN credentialing requirements.

**IF YOU CERTIFIED IN 1998...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2007.

**Requirements:** 60 Category 1 CME credits

**IF YOU CERTIFIED IN 1999...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2008.

**Requirements:** 90 Category 1 CME hours

**IF YOU CERTIFIED IN 2000...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2009.

**Requirements:** 120 Category 1 CME hours

**IF YOU CERTIFIED IN 2001...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2010.

**Requirements:** 150 Category 1 CME hours  
1 completed self-assessment activity

**IF YOU CERTIFIED IN 2002...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2011.

**Requirements:** 180 Category 1 CME hours  
1 completed self-assessment activity

**IF YOU CERTIFIED IN 2003...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2012.

**Requirements:** 210 Category 1 CME hours  
1 completed self-assessment activity

**IF YOU CERTIFIED IN 2004...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2013.

**Requirements:** 240 Category 1 CME hours  
2 completed self-assessment activities  
1 completed PIP unit

**IF YOU CERTIFIED IN 2005...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2014.

**Requirements:** 270 Category 1 CME hours  
2 completed self-assessment activities  
1 completed PIP unit

**IF YOU CERTIFIED IN 2006...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2015

**Requirements:** 300 Category 1 CME hours  
2 completed self-assessment activities  
2 completed PIP units

**IF YOU CERTIFIED IN 2007...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2016

**Requirements:** 300 Category 1 CME hours  
2 completed self-assessment activities  
3 completed PIP units

**IF YOU WILL BE CERTIFIED IN 2008...**

Apply for MOC examination in 2017

**Requirements:** 300 Category 1 CME hours  
2 completed self-assessment activities  
3 completed PIP units