

ABPM (MOC) Questions and Answers

What is the MOC?

The Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is a critical component of board certification which:

- Runs on a traditional 10-year cycle
- Provides proof of professional standing
- Provides proof of Continued Medical Education (CME)
- Allows for the assessment of up to date medical knowledge to improve patient care, communication skills, and identify subject areas in need of remediation
- Eliminates a ten-year high stakes exam (which can lead to loss of certification)
- The MOC Dashboard on the ABPM member portal allows for ease of completion with automatic feedback and reminders
- Provides added convenience and serves as a more cost-effective solution

How do I enroll in the MOC Program?

Enrolling is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Enroll into the MOC through your ABPM Dashboard and choose your preferred payment option
2. Upload/verify your current state license
3. Upload/verify your current CME credit certificates

I just became certified last year (and I'm in my first 10-year cycle). Am I obligated to enroll into the MOC Program?

Yes, enrollment into the MOC program is mandatory upon becoming board certified with ABPM. Participation in the MOC program must begin the following year. Failure to enroll into the MOC program will result in suspension, and possible revocation of your Diplomate status.

What additional financial obligations will I be responsible for after becoming board certified?

Individuals who achieve board certification are granted this classification for a 10-year period with the following provision:

- Enrollment and Participation in the ABPM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program.
- The program outlines the re-credentialing requirements over the duration of the Diplomate's 10-year cycle.
- The Diplomate is required to pay annual dues and fees associated with the MOC process.
- Enrollment begins the calendar year following certification.

How do I maintain my certification or enroll in the MOC program?

Re-credentialing is completed through the MOC program. This provides diplomates with a self-study, self-assessment process to improve and maintain clinical knowledge, and skills in delivering quality patient care.

All members are required to be enrolled in the MOC the calendar year after they become certified.

MOC is a 10-year cycle and the Diplomate will receive a new certificate the first quarter of the following year.

The enrollment fee may be paid in two ways:
\$200.00 annually for the 10-year cycle, or \$1635.00 in a single payment.

Information regarding the MOC process may be found on our website under Members tab/MOC www.abpmed.org/pages/moc OR www.podiatryboard.org/pages/moc

If I hold a Time-Limited certificate (i.e., Certified In 1994 Or Thereafter) When do I enroll into the MOC Program?

- If you have not participated in the MOC you are required to take the ABPM Competency Assessment exam at the end of your current 10-year cycle.
- Enroll into the MOC program, choose your payment option, and begin reporting CMEs, licensure and components.

How much does the Competency Assessment Exam cost and where do I take the exam?

The ABPM Competency Assessment exam is a 100 question, multiple choice exam, administered on your Members dashboard, taken in either your home or office.

The Competency Assessment exam is \$725.00

If I hold a Lifetime Certificate (i.e., Certified In 1993 Or Prior) am I required to enroll in the MOC Program?

No, Lifetime Diplomates are NOT required to enroll in the MOC program BUT:

- Must complete Self-Assessment exam at the end of 10 yr. cycle (not pass or fail)
- Maintain State licensure (provide verification of state licensure or registration)
- Report CMEs as required by your state; you should maintain an average of 25 credits per year, even if your state requires less than 25 per annually. You may report a maximum of 50 per year (therefore, 250 credits total for the 10-year cycle).

What is lifetime membership?

As of 2007, the Self-Assessment is required of active Diplomates, regardless of age, who hold “Lifetime” certificates (certificates issued prior to 1994) and who are in their 10th year of their re-credentialing cycle.

As of 2011, Lifetime certificate holders may continue to re-credential through the self-assessment examination or may elect to enter the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program.

Does a Lifetime Certificate holder need to participate in MOC?

Participation in MOC is voluntary for all Lifetime Diplomates. Lifetime Diplomates are required to verify their professional standing through providing their license status and CME annually.

What is the Self- Assessment process for lifetime members?

All Lifetime Diplomates are required to pay the re-credentialing fees and complete the Self-Assessment Exam every 10 years. Diplomates are exempt if they hold retired, inactive, or disabled status.

How much does the Self-Assessment Exam for lifetime diplomates cost?

- Fees: Self-Assessment Exam \$725 (every 10 years)

How do I obtain a new certificate with an updated end date?

After enrolling in the MOC, Diplomates who are re-credentialing will receive a new certificate the first quarter of the following year. In the interim, an updated PDF of your certificate can be sent from board headquarters upon request.

Note:

If utilizing the \$200.00 annual payment plan option, an unframed certificate will be provided.

If utilizing the option to pay in full (\$1635.00), an updated framed certificate will be provided.

What is the timeline for an established Diplomate (second 10-Year cycle and beyond)?

Continued participation in the MOC program (must complete Part 1 and Part 2 to be MOC compliant)

Fees: \$200 per year or \$1635 one-time payment (every 10 years)

COMPONENTS OF THE MOC PROCESS include 3 parts:

PART 1: Evidence of professional standing (required to provide annually):

- Maintain state licensure (provide verification of state licensure or registration)

PART 2: Maintaining Continuing Education Credits

- Report CMEs as required by your state; you should maintain an average of 25 credits per year, even if your state requires less than 25 per annually. You may report a maximum of 50 per year (therefore, 250 credits total for the 10-year cycle).

Part 3: Providing *Evidence of Cognitive Expertise* Specific to the Field of Podiatric Medicine and Orthopedics (2 categories; fulfillment required in only 1 of the 2 categories)

Satisfy one Category 1 item OR Category two 2 items

Category 1 (satisfy a minimum of **1 component** listed below annually):

Residency Faculty

- Residency or Assistant Residency Director
- Residency Program Faculty (≥ 0.5 time)

Fellowship Faculty

- Fellowship or Assistant Fellowship Director
- Fellowship Program Faculty (≥ 0.5 time)
- Fellow in a CPME approved Fellowship

Graduate Level Faculty

- Graduate Level Podiatric Medicine Faculty (≥ 0.5 time)

Education

- Pass the Cert Exam for ABPM
- Pass the Cert Exam for CWS
- Complete a UHMS 40-hour HBOT Safety Course
- Attempt the ABPM CAQ Examination
- Complete the ABPM Competency Assessment
- ABPM Exam Committee Member
- NBPME Exam Committee Member

*additional components will be added periodically and will be visible on the Member dashboard

OR

Category 2 (satisfy a minimum of **2 components** listed below annually):

Publish

- Publish a paper in a peer reviewed journal in the specialty of Podiatric Medicine
- Author or Co-Author a chapter in a medical text in the specialty of Podiatric Medicine

Lecture

- Lecture on the specialty of Podiatric Medicine at a CME approved conference
- Contribute a lecture in the ACPM e-Learning POD program

Complete:

- Complete 2 ABPM MOC approved learning resources.

*additional components will be added periodically and will be visible on the Member dashboard

What is the MOC and why do I have to pay to enroll?

After becoming Board Certified with ABPM, all Diplomates are required to enroll into the MOC program the following year as the form of re-credentialing through a 10-year cycle. Part of enrollment includes two payment options.

1. A one-time payment of \$1635 for the 10-year cycle or
2. Payments of \$200 per year for the 10-year cycle.

The MOC program is in place to enhance your certification credential through the process of lifelong learning (versus paying \$1750.00 to take a high stakes examination every 10 years to recertify). MOC fees cover the costs of developing, providing, and administering MOC activities that promote lifelong learning with self-assessment and quality improvement.

Why do I have to pay annual dues and where does the money go?

Although the Board's primary functions are conducting national examinations in the specialty of podiatric orthopedics and podiatric medicine and evaluating the ongoing competency of its membership, there are other tasks in which the Board is involved to provide prudent stewardship of the organization and preserve the value of the diplomates' certificates. Our profession's size and internal structure compel the major entities associated with it to be involved in other areas essential to the profession's growth and ongoing success. The ABPM has both a direct responsibility to its members and an indirect responsibility through its input on various national committees working toward the betterment of the profession.

Where do I pay my MOC dues?

MOC payments can be made by logging into your Member-Dashboard and will show any outstanding invoice.

What type of payments options are accepted?

Mastercard, Visa, Discover and American Express card payments are accepted.

Is there a deadline date to pay my MOC payment?

Failure to pay by the deadline date posted on your dashboard may result in suspension of status, and possible revocation of board certification.

What is my MOC payment used for?

The MOC fee covers administrative fees, certificate fees (framed/unframed where applicable with recertification), web development, dashboard maintenance, marketing, committee meetings, and prevents recertification exam and fees.

Is the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) common in allopathic medicine boards?

Yes, most Allopathic boards require continued participation in an MOC process.

How do I upload my CME history?

At this time, all CME certificates may be uploaded on the member dashboard.

Diplomates who fail to comply may be put on suspension and if not remedied will have Diplomat status revoked.

How many CME credits are required per year?

Report CMEs as required by your state; you should maintain a minimum of 25 credits per year, even if your state requires less than 25 per annually. You may report a maximum of 50 per year.

Diplomates are exempt if they hold retired, inactive, or disabled status.

All Diplomates may document and upload their CME's, which will be validated by Board HQ before they will be accepted.

Acceptable CMEs are outlined on your member dashboard.

Does board certification have an expiration date?

Certificates are time-limited to 10 years. Re-credentialing occurs on a 10-year cycle through the MOC program.

Can my board status become revoked?

Yes, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to revoke a member for the following reasons:

- A. Failure to pay the annual registration dues and/or MOC fees plus any late fee by the date indicated on the final notice.
- B. Conviction for an offense which causes the member's license to practice podiatry to be revoked in any state. Any of the following actions against a Diplomat's medical license may be cause for loss of diplomate status:
 1. Involuntary suspension by any appropriate medical board and/or governmental agency.
 2. Revocation by any appropriate medical board and/or governmental agency; or
 3. Voluntary suspension due to negotiated settlement with any appropriate medical board and/or governmental agency for a violation of a statute or accepted medical standards.

- C. Failure to adhere to the requirements for re-evaluation as set forth in the “Re-evaluation of Diplomates” section of this document.
- D. Misrepresentation of facts, or evidence of providing false information, in connection with the application for certification or other related documents.
- E. Failure to adhere to the advertising guidelines as outlined in these policies.
- F. Failure to adhere to the Code of Ethics as adopted by the Board of Directors.

Items A, B and C are cause for immediate revocation of status without benefit of a hearing. Items D, E and F are subject to revocation following a hearing.

How do I recertify if MOC is not maintained?

If you are a time-limited certificate holder you will be required to enter the MOC during your next recertifying cycle.

If you were in the MOC and failed to complete the requirements your Diplomate status may be suspended or revoked, and you will have to contact HQ to begin the process of remediation.

Is anyone exempt from re-certification?

Diplomates are exempt if they hold retired, inactive, or disabled status.

What if I am in an administrative position with limited or no patient contact. Does this exclude me from the MOC Program?

No, Diplomates in alternative practice circumstances (e.g. medical administrator, research based, teaching capacities) with little or no patient care activity are still able to meet the requirements of MOC.

How do I keep my contact information current?

ABPM requires your current contact information, including your mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number. Please contact ABPM as soon as possible if any of your addresses change (mailing, email, etc.) as this is our primary means of communicating important information to you. You may update your address, phone number and e-mail online. Log into the ABPM Member Profile section www.abpmed.org/pages/member-login?goto=%2Fpages%2Fmember-dashboard and select “View or Update Member Profile.”

What if I change my name?

Name changes in the system must be made by headquarters staff. Please notify ABPM Headquarters in writing (admin@ABPMed.org) for a name change. ABPM uses your full official name in its records. ABPM requires a copy of the legal document indicating the change (e.g. marriage certificate, naturalization papers, court order of name change, etc.) to be provided before any changes are made.

Contact ABPM headquarters with any questions you may have. Specific policies regarding evaluation, reporting of certification status, confidentiality, etc. can be reviewed in the ABPM Policy Manual.

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