

## ABAM announces the Maintenance of Certification Program

Starting in April of 2011, the American Board of Addiction Medicine will replace its Re-certification process with Maintenance of Certification (MOC). The purpose of the ABAM MOC program is to assure that, by engaging ABAM Diplomates in a process of continuous professional development, the Diplomates will have the practice-related knowledge to provide quality care in Addiction Medicine. MOC additionally gives the public assurance that ABAM certified physicians are maintaining high standards of clinical care throughout their career.

For these reasons all Diplomates will be required to participate in the ABAM MOC program. A summary of the four MOC components and specific MOC requirements for each Diplomate based on certification expiration can be found in the right-hand column box on this page.

MOC Program Parts:	Launch Dates	Lifetime Certificate	Time-limited Certificate
<b>Component I Licensure and Professional Standing</b> Hold a valid medical license	April 2011	✓	✓
<b>Component II Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment</b> Educational and self-assessment programs.	Requirement will be determined by January of 2012,		✓
<b>Component III Cognitive Expertise</b> Demonstrate your specialty-specific knowledge through a Cognitive examination every 10 years.	Already required every 10 years		✓
<b>Component IV Practice Performance Assessment</b> Demonstrate your use of best evidence and practices compared to peers and national benchmarks.	Requirements to be determined by January of 2012		✓

The Board requires that all ABAM Diplomates participate in Component I of the MOC program. Therefore, in April of 2011, ABAM will launch Part I (Professional Standing) of the ABAM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program.

**In order to maintain their current ABAM certification all ABAM Diplomates must provide evidence, on an annual basis, that they are in good professional standing. Evidence of**

**professional standing is provided by possessing a valid medical license in at least one state or jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada. ABAM considers a medical license to be valid, even if there are stipulations/conditions placed on the license.**

ABAM will make this very easy for each Diplomate to do by launching its' MOC web portal on April 4, 2011. After that date, all Diplomates will be required to log into the Portal on an Annual Basis and complete Part I of the MOC program by;

- ✓ Updating their demographic information;
- ✓ Document that they hold a valid licenses to practice in at least one state or jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada; and
- ✓ Remit their annual Licensure Verification Fee

The Annual Licensure Verification Fee of \$35 for each Diplomate is to cover the cost ABAM will incur to verify the licensure of each Diplomate with the Federation of State Medical Licensing Boards (FSMB).

**Dates and Deadlines for Annual Verification of Licensure**

<b>Deadlines</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Early Deadline to Complete Part I of MOC	September 15, 2010	\$35
Late Deadline to Complete Part I of MOC	December 15, 2010	\$70

Diplomates who do not demonstrate evidence of professional Standing by December 15, 2011, and who do not enroll in the Maintenance of Certification Program, will unfortunately lose their ABAM certification, and may no longer advertise themselves as ABAM certified, as of January 1, 2012.

**If you have any questions please contact the American Board of Addiction Medicine** by calling us at 301-656-3378 or sending an email to *email@abam.net*.